

Sobering report on domestic violence

Figures from coalition of LGBT anti-violence programs show 25% increase.

page 20

Hooray for Harvey's!

Bar back in business; Diesel opens as well.

page 14



Ozon player

Gay French filmmaker Francois Ozon on '8 Women.'

see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

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Serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities since 1971



The very first International Mr. Leather 1979, David Kloss, left, and his partner Remi Collette, were among hundreds of people who turned out for the 15th annual Leather Walk Sunday, September 22. The event precedes the Folsom Street Fair, set for this Sunday, September 29.

LEATHER SHINES BRIGHT! LEATHER IS RIGHT!

by Mister Marcus

Love changes everything" was the theme for the 15th annual Leather Walk from the Castro to the South of Market area last Sunday, September 22. Spearheaded for the second year in a row by Sandy "Mama" Reinhardt and her big "family of boys and girls," pledges and donations for the AIDS Emergency Fund and the Breast Cancer Emergency Fund exceeded all expectations as scores of leather people made the three-mile trek. Approximately \$43,007 was raised during the walk itself and the subsequent auction.

The Leather Walk kicked off Leather Week in San Francisco. The highlight of the week, of course, is the 19th annual Folsom Street Fair this Sunday, September 29.

At last Sunday's walk, the musical renditions by Brian Beninati, Donna Sachet, T.J. Istvan, Sheba, and Berlin accompanied the marchers — some 300 strong — who were escorted by members of the San Francisco Police Department and dozens of motorcycles. Photos were snapped all along the way to the first pit stop, the Loading Dock, and then the Powerhouse, and lastly, the San Francisco Eagle.

There are so many people to thank for their dedication, hard work, contributions and services, it would be impossible to list them all but they were publicly thanked by both Mama and Ray Tilton, who had a lot of input in producing another tradition we have all grown to love. Cash pledges and donations for the walk totaled \$30,000. The weather was great and smiles beamed everywhere from marchers and spectators alike. You could just see and feel the waves and waves of love and pride as the faithful made the trek from the gay stronghold in the Castro to the heart of our city's leather world South of Market.

And it just wasn't San Franciscans. Leather people from the Russian River, San Jose, Alameda County, Los Angeles, Long Beach, and San Diego were there as were German, Dutch, and Australian men.

The most noticeable change in this year's march was the fact that there were many, many leather women. The leather dyke title holders, bikers, and the Exiles were joyously in sync with the whole thing. It was a glorious spectacle on a glorious day. If you weren't there, you missed quite an event. It was unforgettable. Commendations from the state of California via Assemblywoman Carole Migden's (D-San Francisco) office honored Mama, and the Board of Supervisors declared it Ray Tilton Day in the City and County of San Francisco. It doesn't get much better than that!

FILM STAR MICHAEL GREER DIES

by Bob Ross

Film star, raconteur, singer, comedian, and writer Michael Greer died at Riverside Hospital in Southern California on Saturday, September 14. He was 59 and had been battling emphysema for several years.

Mr. Greer was born as James R. Maley on April 20, 1943, a military brat in Galesburg, Illinois. He went into military service and was discharged in Springfield, Massachusetts. His early years were spent between Boston in the winter and Provincetown in the summer, working many different kinds of jobs and entertaining on the side. He would go to all the talent shows, winning some and losing others. He was building a name for himself. After bouncing back and forth for a couple of years, he went to New York — it was about 1958 or 1959.

Mr. Greer started in the same old grind of odd jobs and talent shows. One of the more interesting talent shows took place at the Coronet Lounge in New York. In a large line-



Michael Greer

ONE BIG LEATHER FAMILY LEADERS REFLECT ON THE COMMUNITY

by Zak Szymanski

Years ago, almost all leather folk felt the need to remain discreet, to hide their passions not only from the mainstream but within other subcultures, like the gay community. Today, as the Folsom Street Fair turns 19 years old, it is a well-known fact that leather spans all ages, races, sexualities, genders, and economic groups. Numerous title contests are held around the globe, and the leather community is known for its humanitarian and charitable contributions. Leather has also become trendy to the point that it can lose its meaning; many fashion stores, for instance, sell BDSM collars and accessories to kids who likely have no idea



IML 2002 Stephen Weber

what they are wearing. Still, many leather folk must remain somewhat private about their fetishes, for fear of losing their jobs or community status. And as the community continues to evolve and attract new members of all identities, strife exists within the scene as well.

The Bay Area Reporter asked several well-known leaders in the leather scene about their thoughts on the past, present, and future, particularly as it relates to their sense of community. While the answers differed in many respects, everyone interviewed agreed that the leather community remains a family, complete with challenges, successes, disagreements, and cohesion. And everyone took pride in the fact that

page 18 ►

TO OUR READERS: B.A.R. TO PUBLISH DOMESTIC PARTNER ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Bay Area Reporter will begin accepting announcements from local same-sex couples who have had a public domestic partner ceremony. The newspaper decided to start this feature as a way to support the fight for same-sex marriage and/or the implementation of civil union laws, and to recognize gay and lesbian couples who have made a public commitment to one another.

There will be no charge for the announcements.

Couples interested in submitting announcements should adhere to the following guidelines:

* Couples need to reside in the nine-county Bay Area region (San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Sonoma, Napa, and Solano counties).

page 19 ►

FIRST OF TWO SECTIONS

page 46 ►

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Fed guidelines hamper leather outreach efforts

by Matthew S. Bajko

As the Stop AIDS Project works to bolster its outreach to the leather community, its efforts are facing roadblocks from federal guidelines attached to its funding.

Due to the Helms Act, passed in 1992 by Congress, the project's programs and materials cannot promote sexual activities and must adhere to local standards if they are funded with federal dollars. Since nearly 80 percent of its funding comes with the anti-sex stipulations, the Stop AIDS Project is limited in the types of programs it can offer.

Further hampering its ability

to reach the leather community is the increased scrutiny the agency has received from federal inspectors over the last year. Twice within a 12-month period federal inspectors audited the agency to ensure it was not promoting sex through its programming and outreach efforts. The result, said project officials, has been increased scrutiny of its programs on a local level as well.

All of the agency's promotional and event materials must be approved by a local materials review committee. The committee members are anonymous and the process is overseen by the city's Office of AIDS.

"The kinds of promotional language that would in the past

have gotten 20 to 30 guys at an event, the local review committee has not approved," said David Evans, the project's program director.

While it awaits a report from the latest round of federal questioning it underwent in August, the agency is taking steps to increase the amount of unrestricted funding it receives. By doing so, the project's staff hope to be able to program the kinds of creative workshops they know will be effective at combating the transmission of HIV.

"With money from the community, we can address the community's needs. We can use the language we are used to and the

page 12 ▶

Erotic publishing panel on Friday

by Zak Szymanski

How did a thriving gay porn industry come to exist just 10 years after the United States Postal Service sought to have the first gay press banned because of the word, "homosexual"? More than 40 years after the historic Supreme Court decision allowed that press to continue, is the censorship battle over, and does censorship come mostly from without or within the queer community? Who produces the images of queer sexualized bodies and fantasies, and how do they get consumed? Why do we desire what we desire?

These questions and more will be addressed at "Being Obscene: A Panel of Pornographers," hosted by the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Historical Society this Friday, September 27, from 6-8 p.m. at the LGBT Community Center at 1800 Market Street.

The panel discussion will feature

pioneering erotic photographers Tom Bianchi and Tee Corinne, joined by editors Susie Bright and Heather Findlay of *On Our Backs* magazine and Jack Fritscher and Robert Davolt of *Drummer* magazine.

Bianchi will focus on the significance of *Out of the Studio*, his controversial coffee table book from the early 1990s that put overtly gay male images into the mainstream. Corinne will provide a crucial look into how she was involved with the first publishing of explicit sexual images by and for lesbians that occurred in the 1970s and 1980s. Bright, co-founder and the first editor of *On Our Backs*, will discuss the women's community's entrance into sexual material, and Findlay, the magazine's current publisher, will address the magazine's revival and financial success. Fritscher, founding editor of *Drummer*, and Davolt, its last editor and publisher, will highlight how the leather magazine

birthed alternative erotic images and publications and became the center of a cultural phenomenon.

Opening the panel will be historian Willie Walker, who will discuss the popularity of physique photography after World War II and the ensuing battles to ban those male images. The panel will look at free speech, the human sexuality movement, and the motivating forces behind the community-based publishing of erotic images and ideas.

The panel marks the opening of "Discovering Passions, Evolving Bodies," a two-site exhibit hosted by the historical society that looks at the crucial role of queer periodicals between World War II and the World Wide Web in helping to mass circulate self-produced images and words for an emerging mass movement. The exhibit runs from September 27-November 15 at San Francisco Main Library's Hormel Center and at the historical society, 973 Market St., Suite 400, in San Francisco. ▼

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Lesbian helps collar library-book slasher

by Joe Dignan

The San Francisco Public Library book slasher John Perkins, who pleaded no contest last week to destroying or damaging more than 600 gay and lesbian books in the library's collection, was caught through a combined effort of police, library security personnel – and one lone librarian who, unpaid, spent her Sunday afternoon staking out the stacks of the main library's reference room.

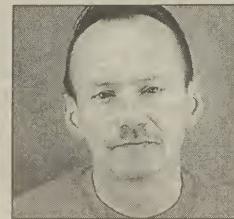
Perkins was sentenced last week to five years' probation. He must stay away from all city libraries, pay \$9,600 in restitution, and undergo counseling.

The vandalism had been going on for a year and a half when Nancy Silverrod, who is a lesbian and works the main library as a reference librarian, decided to do something about it.

"I'd been mad about it for some time," said Silverrod about the vandalism that was reported in the Bay Area Reporter when it started occurring early in 2000. "It really makes me crazy that people steal and damage library books. I had a personal anger that people in the community were being denied information that I relied on when I was a teenager and was coming out as a lesbian."

After a rash of vandalism in April 2001, Silverrod decided to simply sit and wait in the reference room for the slasher – who had made a habit of defacing books on gay and lesbian subjects by cutting slashes and cat eyes in them and, in some, inserting religious material he had cut from other books, or in some other cases, inserting advertisements for a Christian radio station in Oakland. He would then drop the damaged books under the bottom shelves of bookcases around the library – sometimes along with copies of this newspaper.

"My partner mentioned to me that she might help. I thought,



Book slasher John Perkins

"That's something I could do on a couple of hours on my day off. Eventually we might catch them."

"It was early afternoon. I just came in with a book I'd been reading. There are some tables you can sit at where you can keep an eye on the shelves."

Silverrod lucked out on her first day. "I don't remember but it wasn't a really long time before he came along."

"I might not have paid any attention. He was dressed in a brown jacket. He doesn't stand out but he had this hot pink book in his hand. He lifted the shelf and stuck the book under it."

"We'd been told not to approach him because he might have razors in his hands," she said. So Silverrod called security. "They came running up with sticks. They told him to put his hands on the table. He didn't do it. They pushed him into it and they took him down to the security office."

"It's great. I totally didn't expect it," she added.

But Perkins's attorney, Steven Naratil, doesn't think that his client is the only person who did the vandalism.

"There's at least one other person out there," said Naratil. "To claim that Mr. Perkins is the only one responsible is inaccurate, and [the district attorney] knows it's inaccurate."

Naratil cited a composite sketch of a book slashing suspect which the Police Department issued in April 2001 that looks

nothing like his client.

Jim Van Buskirk, head of the library's Hormel Gay and Lesbian Center, said that the library has been often hit by homophobic vandals. Tables have the words "kill faggots" on them.

"If anyone comes into the library and rides the elevator, three of the four cabs have 'HIV' slashed into their walls," said Van Buskirk.

Hundreds of other gay- and lesbian-themed books have been slashed by a vandal with a completely different pattern. This person would cut out the first couple of pages and the bar code, so the staff could not properly check out the book.

Naratil said that he doesn't think some of the books that his client slashed, including titles like *Faggot Sex*, *Jesus Acted Up: A Gay and Lesbian Manifesto*, and *True Tales of Seduction* belong in a public library collection. "There's a larger question whether these books should be available to everyone, where children can go in," he said.

To this, Van Buskirk said, "I have a T-shirt which says, 'My library has something to offend everyone.' It's about freedom of information. For any individual or group to assign themselves the task of saying this shouldn't be available sounds like fascism. There might be a book that I might not like, but it's not my right to say that someone shouldn't have access to that material."

By the library's counting, about \$26,000 worth of books have been damaged or destroyed. Perkins will pay only \$9,600 in restitution because the prosecutor could not prove that he did all of the damage.

Some of the books will be easy to replace. The library has duplicates of some others. But, according to Assistant District Attorney Sam Totah, "There are going to be books that are irreplaceable. You can't put a price on them. The books will never be seen again in the main library. He's been an effective censor." ▼

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Riders rev engines for AIDS group

by Matthew S. Bajko

Bikers start your engines. The sixth annual Motorcycle Ride for Life is set to take off next month to help raise funds for Shanti.

The annual fundraiser helps the nonprofit agency continue to provide emotional support and practical assistance to people living with AIDS, breast cancer, and other life-threatening illnesses.

This year's ride begins at 8 a.m. Saturday, October 5 at Kilowatt at 16 and Valencia Streets in the Mission and ends at Fife's Guest Ranch in Guerneville at approximately 1 p.m.

Shanti has limited the ride to only 200 participants this year, and will sign up riders on a first-come, first-serve basis. Participants are asked to donate \$25 in advance of the ride or \$35 the day of the event in order to ride.

The ride will travel through the city, eventually ending at the Sonoma County resort, where a catered barbecue, music, games, and raffle await bikers. Fife's has established a special rate for those participants wanting to spend Saturday night at the resort.

To sign up, call Shanti at (415) 674-4764 or register online at www.shanti-ride.org. To make a reservation at Fife's, call 1-800-734-3371. ▼

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Cops bust ecstasy dealer

by Matthew S. Bajko

San Francisco narcotics inspectors arrested a man they believe to be one of the city's largest ecstasy dealers last month after a traffic stop eventually led them to an apartment near Buena Vista Park.

According to police, officers had pulled over Richard Zee, 44, in July for allegedly driving erratically and found a large amount of

MDMA pills in his car. While Zee was out on bail for that arrest, narcotics officers had placed him under surveillance. They then obtained a search warrant for Zee's apartment on the 800 block of Waller Street. Officers had to use a battering ram to enter the apartment.

Inside, the cops found 800 tabs of ecstasy, a large quantity of GHB, \$200,000 worth of crystal methamphetamine, and \$316,000 in cash. They also searched a storage locker Zee had rented on Geary Boulevard and found another stash of cash totaling \$350,000.

"I would think this was a fairly large dealer in San Francisco. Numerous people phoned up there to the location while the officers were in the house," said Captain Tim Hettrich, head of the Police Department's narcotics division.

San Francisco police arrested Zee on August 22, then on September 19 Drug Enforcement Administration officials revealed they had tied Zee into a nationwide ring of suspected Internet drug dealers. The DEA netted 115 people in the investigation, dubbed Operation Webslinger, who were caught selling GHB online.



Richard Zee

ple in the investigation, dubbed Operation Webslinger, who were caught selling GHB online.

"His name was mentioned in some documents that were seized by the DEA," said Hettrich.

San Francisco handed Zee over to federal authorities, and he is awaiting arraignment on federal drug charges that could send him to prison for 10 years. ▼

San Diego medical marijuana club raided

by Liz Highleyman

On Tuesday, September 24, agents of the Drug Enforcement Administration raided the medical cannabis garden of the Shelter from the Storm dispensary in San Diego. The federal agents cut down and removed about two dozen plants.

Shelter from the Storm director Steve McWilliams is a member of the San Diego Medical Marijuana Task Force, which is working to devise a city-approved cannabis distribution system such as San Francisco's patient identification card system. Shelter from the Storm was operating in accordance with the task force's draft guidelines.

For the third time in as many weeks, Americans for Safe Access called for protests at local federal government sites the day following a medical cannabis raid. In San Francisco and Oakland, protests took place Wednesday at the city's respective federal buildings.

Earlier this week, on Monday, September 23, hundreds of people page 21 ►

'Art for Life' begins today

by Zak Szymanski

More than 250 pieces of art, including work from some of the area's well-known and emerging artists, will be auctioned off at the 15th annual "Art for Life" event on Sunday, September 29 at The Friedman Center, 4676 Mayette Avenue, in Santa Rosa. The event is a benefit for Face to Face/Sonoma County AIDS Network.

Face to Face, with offices in both Guerneville and Santa Rosa, provides compassionate care to people with HIV and their loved ones while promoting preventive education and responsive leadership to all the people of Sonoma County.

Art for Life will host a free preview of all works of art beginning today (Thursday, September 26), and continuing Friday, September 27 from noon until 6 p.m. and Saturday, September 28 from noon until 5 p.m. The silent auction begins on Sunday at 2 p.m. and the event lasts until 6. A \$50 donation is requested to attend the auction, which directly helps to provide in-home care for

page 20 ►

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Taking back the House

Two heroes of the LGBT community – U.S. Representatives Barney Frank (D-Massachusetts) and Barbara Lee (D-California) – were in town over the weekend. Frank, who is openly gay, and Lee, who has long been a friend to the LGBT and HIV/AIDS communities, used the opportunity to raise some needed cash for congressional candidates in the November election, when Democrats hope to take back control of the House of Representatives. Right now, the Democrats are only six seats shy of taking back the House and, as Frank told an audience of about 60 LGBT activists and gay-friendly supporters at a house party, it would make a big difference in the fight for equal rights for all.

"If the Democrats take over, we'll get a hearing," Frank said, referring to his long-stalled bill to change the federal classification of marijuana so that doctors can write prescriptions for it much as they do for morphine and other powerful drugs.

Frank was critical of those who believe there is no difference between the Democratic and Republican parties (in the last presidential election Green Party candidate Ralph Nader was able to use that argument which basically delivered to us George W. Bush president). "Don't tell me there's no difference," Frank said. He pointed out that party control is vital to the LGBT community. "When Nader said there was no significant difference, he was saying that GLBT issues are not significant," Frank said.

If the Democrats take back the House and current Minority Leader Dick Gephardt (D-Missouri) runs for president, we are likely to have our own Nancy Pelosi as speaker. Pelosi, currently minority whip, is the highest-ranking woman in Congress, and her progressive stand on AIDS and other issues means that there most assuredly would be hearings on bills like the Employment Non-Discrimination Act and Frank's medical marijuana bill.

If the Democrats win control and Gephardt chooses not to run for president, he likely would become speaker of the House and Pelosi would move up to become majority leader. That's not a bad possibility either.

"If Nancy Pelosi is majority leader, we'll

vote and pass ENDA," Frank said. "We'd make real progress on this."

And if the Republicans maintain control? Well, as Frank pointed out, we'll be likely stuck with the homophobic Tom DeLay of Texas. You can bet he would not hold hearings on ENDA or anything else that would help gays achieve equality.

Why is all of this important? Well, for one thing, redistricting has left Oakland's Lee with about 115,000 new (and potentially more conservative) voters in her redrawn district. She has opposition this year, primarily because of her courageous stand last year as being the only representative to vote against using military force in Afghanistan.

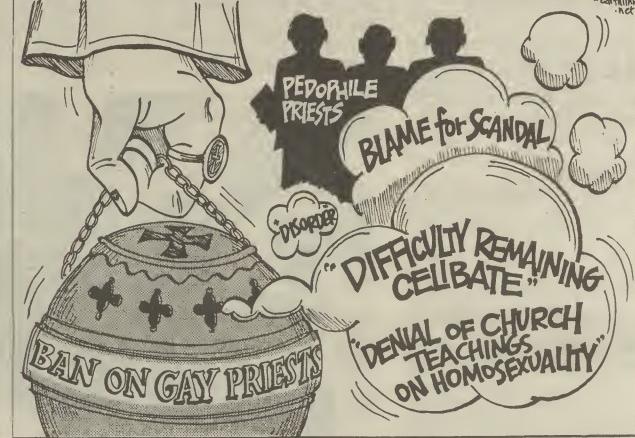
Secondly, we know that Democratic and Republican LGBT voters in California are not enamored with their choices for governor. Incumbent Gray Davis has turned off

voters in droves with his fundraising practices and LGBT voters aren't thrilled with his reluctance to sign significant legislation expanding our equal rights; though he has, of course, come through on big items such as the state domestic partner registry and inheritance rights, for example. For all of Davis's faults, however, GOP challenger Bill Simon is an even worse choice. His flip-flop on support of equal rights for gays is merely the tip of the iceberg, as Simon's past business dealings leave him in no position to run the state.

What all of this means, we believe, is that LGBT voters might be tempted to stay home on Election Day, and that would be a serious mistake. If nothing else, voters should head to the polls in November to vote for their Democratic House candidate. While Lee likely will win re-election, now is not the time to be complacent. ▼

Editorial**ANOTHER VATICAN SMOKE SCREEN...**

RON WILLIAMS
PAINTER
@earthlink.net



Leather is many things

by Tom Rodgers

Webster's Dictionary defines "leather" as "animal skin dressed for use ... [or] something wholly or partly made of leather." Your elderly Aunt Tillie from Topeka knows leather has its own wonderful smell and feel. One of the nicest things about leather stores is the smell. But, anyone who identifies with the leather community knows leather is much more. What is it about black-dyed bovine hide that so enthralls?

The association with bikers makes leather sexy. If you are old enough or are a fan of old movies, you may remember James Dean in *Rebel Without A Cause*. Later incarnations of this biker image appear in *The Great Escape*, *Easy Rider*, *The Lords of Flatbush*, *Grease*, and *Happy Days*. This stylized and at times sanitized depiction of leather-jacketed tough guys pervades our group psyche bespeaking darkly sensual sexuality. If you ride a motorcycle, as do I, you need a leather coat, gloves, and steel-toed boots to minimize injury, especially "road rash," if you go down. But, many people who won't ride a bike wear motorcycle jackets. They are reacting to and reflecting the tough biker, bad-boy image rather than dressing to ride a motorcycle. Leather equals biker, biker equals sexy, so leather equals sexy.

The association with forbidden, or at least discouraged, sex makes leather a rallying point. Many mainstream gays and lesbians reject some sexual activities, e.g., fist-fingering, as too extreme. The same appears to be true within the straight community. A straight acquaintance enjoys being bound and flogged by his girlfriend. He is comfortable discussing this with me, a gay leather man, but not with his straight non-

leather friends. Those who may be considered sexual pariahs find greater acceptance of their kinks within the leather community whether gay or straight. Leather is an indicator of kink and, perhaps, its acceptance.

Leather has an in-your-face aspect and appeal. The Dykes on Bikes that begin SF's Pride Parade are perfect examples, though admittedly not all self-identify as leather folk. Years ago a leather bar banned hoods within the bar, a reasonable precaution given the possibility of robbery by a hooded bandit. Nonetheless, a "hood-in" occurred shortly thereafter to the consternation of the bar management. I often attend annual dinners and similar events in full leather. I won't put on a tuxedo just to impress those I don't know or confuse those I do. Others attend the symphony, theater, ballet and/or opera in full leather, relishing the looks and murmurs they evoke. I know several men who were rather meek and mild when first involved with the leather community. In time, they became much more self-confident in leather – whether as tops or bottoms – and out of leather. The in-your-face aspect of leather is liberating and self-affirming.

Conversely, leather can be subtle. I met a closeted Baptist preacher from Georgia who had given himself a Prince Albert. He couldn't pierce his ear or nipples or wear anything vaguely leather or gay, but, as he explained to me, he knows he has a PA and that he is a leather man at heart. I first identified myself as a leather man years ago when the only leather I had or could afford was a wristband and a leather strip tied in a slipknot around my neck. Even though I did not own a leather coat, pants, or vest, I was most

comfortable, if at first a little intimidated, with leather folk. In my case, and I think in the case of many others, leather involves a mindset that best manifests itself when donning the hides. Subsequently I've owned enough leather to recover a small herd of cattle, but that's another story.

You'll find a leather bar in most major U.S., Canadian, European, and Australian cities. The leather pride flag is one of the most recognizable symbols within the gay community and it can be found in small towns and cities miles from the nearest leather bar or store. As with the greater gay community, we are everywhere, but as we are fewer in number, our leather helps us find one another.

I live a leather lifestyle year-round in San Francisco, but this city is famous for its acceptance of those who march to a different drummer. Others are not so fortunate. Leather Week and the Folsom Street Fair are important for many to know they're not alone in the world or a pervert that no one, even their gay and lesbian friends, would understand. Revel in your leather and enjoy the thousands of others who are doing the same. You may find your soul mate, at least for the night, in leather. And, if you are a visitor, come visit us at other times too so we locals can have a better crack at you and vice versa. ▼

Guest Opinion

A San Francisco resident since 1979, Tom Rodgers is an attorney and owns a small guest house, Tom's Place. He is SF Leather Daddy IV, a member of the Castro Lions, and active in community and charitable causes.

LETTERS

Welcome home

Those who have been to San Francisco know it as a physically beautiful city blessed with picturesque vistas and great weather. It is a city renowned the world over as a stunning example of an urban center with a great standard of living that has not sacrificed so much in the name of progress. For gays and lesbians it is mecca, the dream destination of many a young person questioning their sexuality. For many of the thousands of men and women who pursue the leather lifestyle, the Folsom Street Fair is a rare occasion to celebrate our diversity and come together as a family. San Francisco is the home that warmly welcomes us all, and she does it well.

Yes, we have our share of the urban problems that plague our society, but there is something in San Francisco that brings out in people the desire to stand up and work toward a better future. We are blessed here with many who work endless hours to help those in need create a more vibrant community or a better future. Visitors to our town, and I was privileged to introduce one to San Francisco last weekend, are struck by the sheer magnitude of the spirit of our fair city. San Francisco is a destination for many of us. It is not a place we endure until we can afford to move somewhere better. It is a glorious place to live and the energy that often is lost to lamenting one's situation is put to positive uses here.

Rather than cry about how we hate our home, we work to make it better. It is a lesson that could be taken to many aspects of our lives. We all, by our own thoughts, help to create the reality we like to complain about. Take a moment, and notice the things you like in your lives, in your cities and in your friends. Enhance them. Take some of the defeatist attitude and harness it to make a difference. If no one is wearing leather to your leather bar, rather than follow the pack and wonder why things were better before, make a change. Stand out and hold your head up high. Some people might not appreciate the change, but most will. They will appreciate the fun you might be having and choose to join in, rather than continue to sit on the contagious side of inaction.

So we welcome you for Folsom Street Fair with open arms. Enjoy what this city has to offer and take a piece home. There are aspects of San Francisco, which could brighten up many lives in far away places. So be our guest and through your adventures, help us keep making this city a magical home to all.

Peter Jackson, Mr. SF Leather 2002
San Francisco

Another beef with craigslist

I read with interest the article regarding the craigslist brouhaha ("Gender categories challenge craigslist.org," September 19). My personal beef with that list is which ads they choose to run and which to delete.

Barebacking and drugs of all descriptions ("PnP," "Tina," "420," etc.) make craigslist with alarming frequency. However, an advertiser who writes "generous" (the code word for willing to pay) will have his ad automatically deleted.

I am the author of *Sex Workers as Virtual Boyfriends* (Haworth, 2002). It is my contention that paying for sex is far less harmful to both parties than barebacking and/or usage of drugs. I know that it is craigslist's policy to advertise only free sex. However, since the word "generous" by itself is completely innocuous (much less so than "barebacking"), censoring a harmless activity and promoting extremely dangerous and even life-threatening conduct strikes me as hypocritical.

Joseph Itiel
San Francisco

Domestic bliss

Now that the *New York Times* finally decided to add to their wedding page the domestic partnership union announcements, I wanted to challenge the *Bay Area Reporter* to follow suit and print our own version of the page for the thriving and ever so progressive San Francisco County that I have lived in since 1982. I have read your paper diligently over the years and I love all you have to offer; it is a paper that is as diverse as our city itself. From politics to art, from sports to obituaries it would appear that offering your readers a page that celebrates the homosexual relationship experience would only make sense.

I am asking for your support on creating a domestic partnership page to help educate and create some hope for gays and lesbians from every age bracket, from the gay teenagers who attend LYRIC to our gay seniors who make up the history of this great city we live in. A move on your behalf to create such a page could help them understand that there are in fact loving relationships that can work, do work, and stand the test of time. In a day and age where we lack mentors for healthy same-sex relationships, a domestic partnership page could help remind all of us that love is obtainable between same-sex couples.

I might also add that I am sure businesses who offer in their store same-sex gift registries like Pottery Barn and Bed Bath and Beyond would be more than happy to support the page financially with ads advertising their brand especially given the recent coverage also in the *New York Times* regarding the spending habits of gays and lesbians and their moderate to high disposable incomes.

Tom Finan
San Francisco

[Editor's note: Please see page one.]

Another gay candidate District 6

Contrary to what was published in the *Bay Area Reporter*, I am neither straight nor a closet case ("Dist. 6 supe candidates debate in forum," September 19).

I have been active in our community ever since I moved here in 2000. If you walk in the front door of the new LGBT Community Center and look to the wall on your right, you'll see my boyfriend, Kai, and me listed in a group of donors who make a lot more money than this humble programmer does. Kai just founded the first Chinese PFLAG chapter, and I recently brought Outright Libertarians, the LGBT caucus of the Libertarian Party, to San Francisco (the first West Coast chapter, in fact). I actively support Out and Equal Workplace Advocates as a member of the networking committee that puts on the bi-monthly Pride Power Breakfasts, and I'm a participant in the Gay and Lesbian Victory Foundation's LGBT candidate training. My Web site biography and my 200-word candidate qualifications statement clearly point out that I was the president of my college LGBT club. There's only one photo of me on my Web site, and it is from Pride 2002. I honestly don't know how I could be any more "out," and my boyfriend can't seem to understand how you could have possibly mistaken me for straight.

I can somewhat understand the motives of the Milk and Toklas Democratic clubs, choosing recently to endorse straight Democrats over a gay Libertarian — that's the nature of partisan politics. But by claiming that "Garrett Jenkins is the only out gay candidate in the group," the B.A.R. made it crystal clear to the Democratic political machine of San Francisco that we as queer people can be taken for granted politically. By ignoring the fact that I am an out and proud gay candidate, just because I'm a Libertarian, it shows that they can drive a wedge in our community based on nothing more than party affiliation — that we'll blindly support any Democrat over one of our own who happens to be registered with a third party. That's shameful, and it hurts not only our community's political influence, but also the credibility of the *Bay Area Reporter*.

Rob Power
San Francisco

[Editor's note: Writer Joe Dignan attempted to call Mr. Power for a follow-up interview after the forum, but his campaign literature listed no phone number, and Mr. Power's Web site was down at the time the story was being written. Mr. Dignan e-mailed Mr. Power while writing the story and got no response. While the words "only openly gay candidate" in the article are inaccurate, Garrett Jenkins was the only candidate who identified himself as such at the forum. We apologize for the error.]

ABCD in Dist. 6

Thank you for the great coverage of our District 6 community candidates and issues forum of September 15. Samson Wong and I both counted approximately 100 people attending the District 6 part of the five-hour program. Other than the miscount in attendance, writer Joe Dignan's account was good.

For the record, and to give credit where credit is due, the event was hosted by the District 6 Democratic Club and the San Francisco Young Democrats. Participating groups in this nonpartisan forum were the African American Democratic Club, the Asian-Pacific Democratic Club, the Filipino Democratic Empowerment Council, the Log Cabin Republican Club, the Mexican American Political Association, Lesbians and Gays of African Descent for Democratic Action, and the San Francisco Women's Political Committee. Incidentally, the SFWPC endorsed a candidate other than Chris Daly (Roger Gordon) prior to the event.

As for Daly and his ridiculous letter and non-appearance, we can but offer laughter and this sage advice: you have but only until November 5 to meet and listen to your constituents, Daly, and instead of attending your campaign pep rallies, don't you think the time is now to quit hiding and avoiding the people you say you represent? Can't take a little criticism? If the heat is too hot, then, by all means, get out of the kitchen. We have plenty of other cooks — Michael Sweet, Burke Strunsky, Garrett Jenkins, Arthur Jackson, Roger Gordon. Anyone But Chris Daly — ABCD.

Frederick Hobson, President
District 6 Democrats
San Francisco

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LETTERS

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**Eileen Hansen's ethics**

As Tom Ammiano's handpicked political strategist in the last mayoral race, Eileen Hansen ignored Ammiano-authored legislation requiring her to file disclosure documents of her consultant status ("Dist. 8 super candidate could face ethics fine," September 19).

It's troubling that she places blame on her District 8 supervisorial campaign opponent, candidate Bevan Duffy, for her apparent ethics violation. Hansen's assertion, "I wasn't aware of the law," comes off as disingenuous at best. Duffy deserves an apology.

Frances Stevens
San Francisco

Hansen articulates vision

Since Bevan Duffy's crew is tired of discussing integrity (and owning up to his being a lobbyist), they now want to discuss issues and leadership. Welcome to the party, guys. Check out Eileen Hansen's Web site, which leads the pack in addressing issues for this race.

Hansen articulates her vision and her priorities: real city planning, a sensible budget, preserving health care, and genuine solutions for housing/homelessness. Each of these is detailed in a separate position paper. She recognizes we need solutions, not slogans, for housing and the homeless. She also understands that sensible budget priorities could preserve funding for our fragile neighborhood parks, for our public health system and for family support. All of these are the real "neighborhood services" and the real issues.

As for listening and leadership: embracing positions because of polls is not leading, it's following. She knows that Care Not Cash is a cynical example of follower-ship, designed to capitalize on our frustrations with homelessness without addressing the underlying causes. There's lots of resources out there that tell the full story that won't fit on slick door hangers. Hansen has the guts to listen to all voices (not just the alleged majority), persuade people if necessary, and then build a consensus — but not just jump on the latest political bandwagon. That's what real leadership is about.

John Lehnert
San Francisco

Duffy failed to act

I agree with Tom Perrault's letter ("Time for candidates to discuss issues," September 19). We definitely should be discussing issues. But for me, the number one issue in any race is the honesty and integrity of the candidates. If any candidate is misleading the public, I definitely want to know. In this case, I believe the ballot designation fight may come back to haunt Bevan Duffy. Most people in the district are of the opinion that the quality of life in our neighborhoods did not improve in the years Duffy spent as Mayor Brown's neighborhood services director. I am surprised Duffy would want anyone to know he used to hold the position.

Perrault also discusses Duffy's support of Care Not Cash. Perhaps Duffy's support of the proposition is a desperate attempt to divert attention away from the fact that he did nothing to address homelessness when he was a special assistant in Mayor Brown's office. My opinion is that Duffy had his chance to deal with this important problem and failed to act. What was done to address the homeless problem during Duffy's years of working in the Brown administration?

The next supervisor from District 8 should be someone with a verifiable history of working in and for our neighborhoods. Regardless of his former title, Bevan Duffy does not have that history.

Brian Bartholomew
San Francisco

Opposes Prop. C

I speak for the Alexander Hamilton Post 448 of the American Legion, San Francisco's own, and probably the only predominantly LGBT post in the country. We are frequent users of the Veterans Building and passionately oppose Proposition C.

I was dismayed to see your editorial supporting Proposition C, the Veterans Building \$122,500,000 bond issue ("Vote yes on Prop. C," August 29). Since Tom Horn, president of the War Memorial Board of Trustees, is listed as the B.A.R.'s legal counsel, I wasn't surprised.

Your editorial says that the building was "severely compromised" in the Loma Prieta earthquake. So severely compromised that it safely housed the mayor and the Board of Supervisors for about three years during the renovation of City Hall?

Yes, the building has a seismic hazard rating factor of 3, but so does 101 Grove, which houses the Health Department, and 850 Bryant, the Hall of Justice. Both buildings are still in full-time use, and also need retrofitting.

You mention all the wonderful performing arts enhancements that will be made to the building at the taxpayers' expense. The seismic retrofit and upgrades will cost about \$89 million. The other \$32 million will be used to turn our building into an Opera annex, with hardly any room for the veterans.

B.A.R. readers, before you vote, read the ballot

measure in the voters handbook. It doesn't even mention veterans. Does this remind you of the Main Library, which ended up with plenty of space for parties, but not enough room for books?

Please support your veterans. Vote no on C.

Arch Wilson, Judge Advocate
Alexander Hamilton Post 448
San Francisco

Don't blame the system

Ed Carlton writes that he had unsafe sex and potentially exposed himself to HIV infection ("Mailstrom," September 19) and then tries to blame the system for increasing rates of HIV infection because he got a run-around. Did I miss something or didn't he say he was the one who had unsafe sex in the first place?

Sorry, Ed. It seems that you've got the cart before the horse. It is the irresponsibility of members of the gay community in terms of having unsafe sex that is causing the rate of infection to rise. Stop blaming the system and own your responsibility.

Tony Reynolds
San Francisco

Neighbors not happy

Your recent article, "Neighbors give okay to Dore Alley project" [September 19] insinuated that residents of the area signed off on the new, gigantic Section 8 housing project proposed for Dore and Folsom, site of the popular Up Your Alley Fair. Nothing could be further from the truth.

One political group, aligned with Supervisor Chris Daly, has given its approval despite howls of protest from actual residents who will be sorely impacted by the loss of 60-plus existing parking spaces, increased traffic (both pedestrian and vehicular), and the general decline in living standards brought about by adding yet more government housing into an area already oversaturated with homeless shelters, drug rehab residences, and huge buildings dedicated to the non-working population.

South of Market is struggling to maintain a livable, vibrant atmosphere for all but there has to be some sort of burden sharing with the rest of the city. Walk around the 9th and Folsom area and ask yourself, would this neighborhood really be enhanced by adding hundreds more unemployed people via the Dore project? We think not.

C.J. Gibson, Marlene Cooper, Tina Quigley,
Abe Alvarez-Tostado, Joan Canzano,
Ragina Gibson, Daniel Reuben,
Owen Likens, Kenneth Burke
San Francisco

Bi link missing from column

I read with great interest Paula Martinac's column on the film *Possession* ("Whose Possession is lesbian history?" *Lesbian Notions*, September 12), which is described as a piece about lesbian history. Martinac seems to take exception to the fact that one of the main "lesbian" characters has a relationship with a man, and leaves her female lover for him. The relationship is described as an "unlikely liaison." I could not quite grasp what made it unlikely, except for the portrayal of a lesbian falling for a man. This seems to be a stereotypically un-lesbian thing to do; and, although it has been done, I would say that straight and bisexual women are probably the most likely women to have relationships with men. This leads me to conclude that the character, Christabel LaMotte, is probably not a lesbian at all, but is actually bisexual. Given that some bisexual women leave their male lovers for women, others leave women for men, still others explore polyamory, and a great many don't leave anyone for the sake of anyone else but themselves, odds are high that the turn of events in LaMotte's life are the same turn of events that happen in the lives of many bisexual women.

I understand Ms. Martinac's point about the regularity with which films featuring female couples (referred to in her article as "lesbian couples" — although, if one or both are bisexual, that term is inaccurate) show the relationship's dissolution as a result of a man entering the picture. I too am dismayed by the lack of images of female couples in mainstream films enjoying long-lasting relationships, without either of the women falling for other individuals, male or otherwise. But I don't think it's accurate to characterize the women in these films as necessarily lesbian, or, after the man comes in, as straight either. Women who relate sexually to both men and women frequently refer to themselves as bisexual. Please respect this label by doing the same.

Amy Andre
San Francisco

Send letters to the Bay Area Reporter, 395 Ninth Street, San Francisco, CA 94103, or e-mail to BARpaper@aol.com. Letters must be signed and include a daytime phone number for verification. Unsigned letters will not be printed.

POLITICS

Shelley deserves support

by Wayne Friday

San Francisco Assemblyman Kevin Shelley, the Democratic nominee for California secretary of state, is far and away the superior candidate in November to replace outgoing Secretary of State Bill Jones.

Shelley is opposed by Keith Olberg, a conservative former Republican Assembly member from Victorville.

Shelley, a native San Franciscan and the son of a former mayor, is an attorney who served several terms on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, including two terms as its president. Elected to the Assembly in 1996 from the 12th District (representing parts of San Francisco and San Mateo counties), Shelley became the Assembly's powerful majority leader two years later. He also currently serves on the Elections, Reapportionment, and Constitutional Amendment Committee; Judiciary Committee; Labor and Employment Committee; the Select Committee on Earthquake Safety and Preparedness; and the Select Committee on Gun Violence.

As a state legislator, Shelley has created a comprehensive voting reform package for the state and authored Proposition 41, the Voting Modernization Act, which will be implemented by the next secretary of state. A tireless advocate for the people of California, Shelley enacted the California Nursing Home Reform Act of 2000, the most comprehensive and significant nursing home bill in a generation, and passed significant elder abuse reporting, training, and prevention legislation.

A lifelong supporter of equal rights, Shelley has supported rights for the LGBT community during his legislative years both at City Hall and in Sacramento. In Sacramento, Shelley earned a 100 percent voting record from both LGBT lobbying groups, the California Alliance for Pride and Equality and the Lambda Letters Project.

Here is part of Shelley's pro-gay voting record since going to Sacramento in 1997:

- Campaigned against the anti-gay pledge for candidates promoted by the Campaign for California Families in the March 2002 primaries.

- Fought for legislation to allow domestic partners to inherit without a will (AB2216, Keeley, 2002. Signed September 2002).

- Fought for legislation to require contractors doing business with the state to provide domestic partner benefits (AB1080, Kehoe, 2002).

- Was a co-author of civil union legislation (AB1338, introduced 2001).

- Co-authored an expansion of domestic partner benefits (AB25, signed 2001).

- Authored legislation to secure parental rights for non-biological parents.

- Was a joint author of legislation to add sexual orientation to the Fair Employment and Housing Act for employment and housing protection (AB1001, signed 1999).

- Principal co-author of legislation to include transgender persons under existing hate crime laws (AB1999, signed 1998).

Shelley is in a tough fight with



Rick Gerhardt

found Schwarzenegger was known by 86 percent; Reiner by 69 percent. Fifty-one percent, including 42 percent of Democrats, had a favorable view of Arnold; he was viewed unfavorably by 35 percent. Forty percent viewed Reiner favorably, while 29 percent had a negative view of him.

Speaking of well-funded campaigns, certainly I agree that California Republicans are really reaching when they continue to criticize Gray Davis for his fundraising abilities. I mean, after all, wasn't it the Republicans who so strongly opposed campaign finance reform? The way I see it, the GOPers are pissed only that Davis managed to beat them at their own game.

San Francisco supervisor races are heating up with District 8 candidate Bevan Duffy piling up impressive endorsements from the African American Democratic Club, the Chinese American Demo Club, the San Francisco Building Trades Council, City Demo Club, and the San Francisco Young Democrats.

Democratic superstar Barbra Streisand is headlining a fundraising gala this Sunday, September 29 at Hollywood's Kodak Theatre (home of the Academy Awards) to raise big bucks (\$4 million expected) for the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee. Seems Streisand is a longtime friend and supporter of Representative Dick Gephardt (D-Missouri) and wants to help win back the House for Democrats. Numerous other big names on the bill, but make no mistake, Streisand is the star, and I'm hearing a number of well-heeled Democrats from the Bay Area will be in attendance. The cheapest ticket is \$500.

And hunky actor Ben Affleck will appear with his gay male cousin in an ad being launched this fall by Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. It will be a "beautifully shot portrait with a simple line: 'Stay Close,'" said Suzanne Ramos, co-president of the New York City PFLAG chapter. Ramos said that Affleck's aunt, a PFLAG member, arranged the ad with the popular actor.

Finally, the "Quote of the Week" comes from our very own Assemblywoman Carole Migden (D-San Francisco), quoted in an interview with the *Los Angeles Times* in a lead story last week about LGBT activists being split and never being quite satisfied with our successes in Sacramento and elsewhere. Migden, pointing out that the only reason Vermont gays and lesbians have more rights is due to a judicial order (not legislation) said: "You always have a naysayer sitting on a perch with a mimosa telling you it is not enough; we're out here getting these things done, and these people are on the sidelines at brunch saying, 'It is not enough.' Of course, it is not enough, but it is what we are able to do now." (Migden, one of the ablest legislators, is, of course, right. She and others in the newly-formed Lesbian and Gay Caucus have done good, steady work, and should be lauded, not criticized by those mimosa-drinking, brunch-going crybabies who don't appreciate how good we are getting it. Migden is termed-out of the Assembly this year, but just wait until Mark Leno and John Laird join that caucus.)

And how was your week?

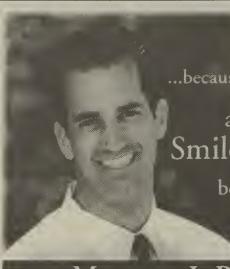
Politics and people

Are they crazy? The newsletter from the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club reports that the club is making a "no endorsement" in the 13th Assembly District race. Smart move, folks — no wonder you have become a laughingstock and fewer people are taking your club seriously. First, you try to turn the Milk Club into a Green Party spin-off, then you have the nerve not to endorse Assembly nominee Mark Leno, a guy who led the charge for transgender health benefits, led the No on Knight effort, challenged the feds on prohibiting gay blood donors, to say nothing of championing medical marijuana (Proposition S). Get a life you guys; you do a disservice to the memory of Harvey Milk by continuing to use his name.

Speaking of the Greenies, a reader writes that those planning to vote for Green Party gubernatorial candidate Peter Camejo out of dislike for both Democratic incumbent Governor Gray Davis and Republican challenger Bill Simon should remember that, yes, once again, a Green Party vote in that particular race is really a vote for conservative "No-I-don't-support-gay-rights" Simon. The reader wrote: "The Republican judicial appointments that Simon would make as governor frighten me so much that while I'm not a fan of Gray Davis, I simply cannot vote Libertarian, Green or 'none of the above' because he (Simon) would surely appoint right-wing ideologues to the bench, while Davis at least appoints moderates and some gays. For me, it's about the courts, stupid!"

Some state politicians won't like this, but a Field Poll released last week shows that Hollywood luminaries Arnold Schwarzenegger and Rob Reiner are actually better known and more popular than most of California's elected officials. Schwarzenegger, an actor and registered Republican, and Reiner, a movie director and active Democrat, have been mentioned as possible future candidates, perhaps for governor in 2006. The poll, conducted August 23 to September 3 among 350 registered voters,

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Was James Dean gay?

by Paula Martinac

September 30, 1955 (47 years ago this month): Actor James Dean is killed in a collision while en route to a road race in Salinas, California.

James Dean's premature death in a car crash, after having made only three movies, transformed the enigmatic young actor into a legend, the subject of books, films, and plays. Over the years, one of the most enduring questions about Dean, whose androgynous, almost delicate, looks were alluring to both men and women, concerns his sexuality — was he straight or gay, or did he fall somewhere between the two ends of the Kinsey scale?

One way to address Dean's sexuality is to examine the company he kept. An early mentor in his hometown of Fairmount, Indiana, was the Reverend James DeWeerd, minister of the local Wesleyan Methodist church. When he knew Dean, DeWeerd was in his 30s and

unmarried, liked poetry and classical music, and was partial to the company of boys.

The teenage Dean — whose mother died when he was 8 and whose father abandoned him to be raised by an aunt — spent a great deal of time alone with DeWeerd, which is suggestive of a sexual relationship or molestation. But no evidence of either has come to light. At Dean's funeral, however, DeWeerd eulogized him as "a boy ... who knew how to seek counsel from men older and wiser than himself."

In fact, Dean's success in Hollywood, where he relocated in 1949 at age 18, did stem in large part from the contacts he made with influential gay men. One of his few documented homosexual relationships was with Rogers Brackett, the sophisticated, 35-year-old radio director of a prestigious advertising agency, whom Dean met in the summer of 1951 while working as a parking attendant at CBS. At a time when

many radio programs were created, written, and cast at ad agencies, Brackett was a particularly good person for a struggling actor to know.

Just two weeks after they met, Dean began living with Brackett in his Hollywood flat. Brackett used his social and professional connections to find Dean work on radio shows like *Hallmark Playhouse*. By Labor Day, Dean was also getting bit parts in movies.

Most biographies of Dean, including a recent TV biopic, acknowledge the sexual component of this relationship, but also claim that

Dean had sex with Brackett purely out of expediency — he needed acting jobs, and the well-connected Brackett could get them for him. Brackett, however, remembered their relationship differently — although he later said that, because of Dean's talent, "my primary interest in Jimmy was as an actor," he added that "I loved him, and he loved me."

Later that year, Dean moved with Brackett to New York, where most radio programs were produced. There Dean began getting television work and eventually theater parts, including a pivotal role as a gay Arab houseboy in Andre Gide's *The Immoralist*, opposite Louis Jourdan. That, in turn, garnered the young actor the lead role as Cal Trask in the Elia Kazan film *East of Eden*.

While in New York, Dean began dating a singer-dancer named Elizabeth "Dizzy" Sheridan, who seems to have been his only serious girlfriend; he even asked her to marry him. Dean confided in Sheridan about the relationship with Brackett and also said that he planned to end it. "He did not want to be gay," Sheridan recalled years later — a telling statement that, coupled with the fact that he continued seeing Brackett, hints at a possible practical side to Dean's romantic involvement with Sheridan. Being openly (or even too suggestively) gay would have quickly ended his career at that time, when gay actors like Rock Hudson were being forced into sham marriages to protect their image.

It's not surprising, then, that when Dean's movie career began to take off, he started appearing at Hollywood events with pretty starlets on his arm. The press — and his studio, Warner Brothers — made much of his supposedly passionate love affair with the lovely Italian-born Pier Angeli, one of the stars of *The Silver Chalice*. But though Dean's colleagues and friends maintained that he was heartbroken when Angeli decided to marry singer Vic Damone, Dean's relationship with Angeli was, she herself later said, "all so innocent." Kazan once told an interviewer that he "did not think Jimmy was a very effective lover with women."

Another of Dean's documented gay relationships was with Jack Simmons, a young actor who, by all accounts, was devoted to him. Because the attachment was kept quietly in the background — Dean virtually lived with Simmons while filming *Rebel Without a Cause* but had his own apartment — studio officials did not seem to mind. That may have also been because the Warner publicity machine was busily getting articles like "The Dean I've Dated," by Lori Nelson, into fan magazines.

Dean took the secret of his sexuality to his untimely death, which occurred soon after he finished filming *Giant*. (His next page ►

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Saturday, October 12, 11am
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Thursday, October 17, 7pm
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Let's Get Physical
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Thursday, October 24, 7pm
Gay Generation Gaps

LGBT Center

1800 Market St @ Octavia St

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Finding your inner fundraiser

by Paula Martinac

The collapse of Pallotta Teamworks, the for-profit company that has produced high-profile AIDS Rides since 1994, leaves a multimillion-dollar hole in the annual budgets of some large gay and AIDS nonprofits, a gap that may result in program cuts or layoffs. But the downfall of Pallotta isn't just a cautionary tale for gay and lesbian fundraising personnel. The AIDS Rides hold an important lesson for the rest of us, too — we can, and should, share in the responsibility of raising money for our community and our issues.

The challenge of gay and lesbian fundraising is a formidable one. So much important work needs to be done — for civil rights, for youth and seniors, for AIDS research, for healthcare and substance-abuse projects, for libraries and cultural programs, for poor and homeless gay people — and more and more money must be raised to finance that work. It's not easy to entice donors, big and small, to part with their cash, so gay and lesbian fundraisers are constantly looking for new strategies, like "gay" credit cards. Eight years ago, with so many people dying, bike rides for AIDS sounded like — and was — a good plan, one that brought in millions of dollars gay and lesbian fundraisers would have been hard-pressed to find elsewhere.

Now how will the gay and AIDS groups that came to rely so heavily on the income from these rides pick up the slack? Already one of them, the Whitman-Walker Clinic in Washington, D.C., has announced a shift to corporate donations. We can expect a similar strategy from many others, I'm sure. This June I attended an annual gay fundraiser in New York where, for the first time in that event's history, the exhibits and banners of corporate giants like JPMorganChase received preferential, center-stage placement over those of community groups and businesses. In fact, the benefit looked more like a corporate trade show than a gay community dinner.

Of course, I realize that many corporations have been leaders in providing benefits like domestic partnership, have shown generosity to gay and lesbian organizations, and are therefore natural targets for our groups' fundraising

efforts in coming years. Still, I can't help wonder if there's a better way to raise money than by transforming all our events into corporate billboards.

We'd be smart, I think, to take a second look at the AIDS Rides. There was an important aspect to them that's often overlooked — the rides transformed thousands of ordinary people into very good fundraisers. When someone commits to raising \$1,500 or \$2,000 or else has to donate

it herself, she becomes very resourceful. She might ask her friends first, then her co-workers, then her immediate family. But eventually she widens her circle to include her boss, her chiropractor, her next-door neighbor, her ex-girlfriend's new husband, even her great-aunt Betty — people who probably never dreamed they'd be writing a check to a gay community center or an AIDS program. The AIDS riders' incredible fundraising energy — not Pallotta Teamworks — is what made those rides great. As *Philadelphia Gay News* publisher Mark Segal wrote in a recent editorial, "The riders are the true heroes."

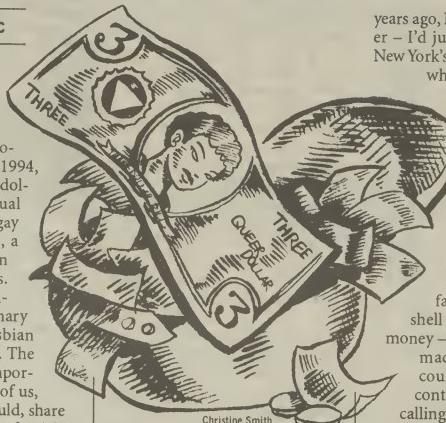
Unfortunately, most of us still believe that we don't have to take part in fundraising for our movement. We believe that other people, the ones who are paid for it or the ones who are rich, should do it, even though we're all the beneficiaries of that fundraising. In addition, many of us think we simply can't fundraise — asking others for money dredges up our own issues about money that may be class-, family-, or gender-related. But as the AIDS riders learned, personal "asks," as such requests are known in the philanthropy biz, are the most effective means of garnering donations. Donors respond positively when there's a human face to giving.

The fact is, we can do it. Twelve

years ago, I was a novice fundraiser — I'd just joined the board of New York's gay community center, which required each director to raise or contribute a minimum of \$2,000 annually. It seemed like a daunting task, because I come from a working-class family and learned early in life never to ask anyone for a "handout." But faced with having to shell out \$2,000 of my own money — which I didn't have — I made a list of everyone I could think of who might contribute and then started calling or writing to them.

To my surprise, most were willing to help simply because I asked them to. In my first year, I raised more than the \$2,000 required and felt an incredible rush of empowerment for doing so. Which goes to show that you don't need a bike ride to get in touch with your inner fundraiser — you only need passion and a commitment to the task. ▶

Paula Martinac is a Lambda Literary Award-winning author of seven books. She can be reached care of this publication or at PMcolumn@aol.com.

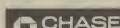


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Past Out

◀ previous page

scheduled role, in *Somebody Up There Likes Me*, went to Paul Newman.) Although Dean can hardly be called straight, it remains unclear if he identified as gay or bisexual, or if he was questioning. Since he was only 24, his sexual identity may, in fact, have been still in formation. ▶

Suggested reading

- Alexander, Paul. 1994. *Boulevard of Broken Dreams: The Life, Times, and Legend of James Dean*. New York: Viking.
- Spoto, Donald. 1996. *Rebel: The Life and Legend of James Dean*. New York: HarperCollins.

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Fed guidelines

◀ page 2

forums are more effective in getting gay and bi men to be more careful and not get infected with HIV," said Jorge Romero-Lozano, president of the project's board of directors.

No where has the censoring impact been felt harder than with its intervention strategies for the leather community. While the agency had a booth at this year's Up Your Alley Fair, and will have two booths at this weekend's Folson Street Fair, its Web site makes no mention of either event.

"We were told it is not a good idea to do that right now, that it would give people in government, for example, more fuel against us by participating in this 'outlandish, deviant' event," said Romero-Lozano. "The leather community, like any other minority community, doesn't get the same validation outside of the city as we give it here in San Francisco. We have to walk a fine line, and at the same time, be a part of the community. So it is difficult to address the needs of the community."

In another example of how the agency has had to water down its

approach, a new forum to be held in October about rubbers and rubbermen had its title edited by the local materials review committee. Instead of the forum's usual "leather fuck" title, advertisements for the event now read "leather talk."

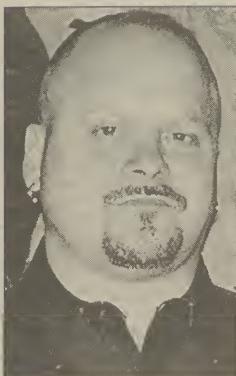
Another event had to be canceled last winter when not enough men signed up for the forum. The review committee objected to the leather fuck title and images that the project wanted to use, and the agency contends the blander version failed to draw a crowd.

"Every event for leather men we have conducted in the past year has been edited from what the organizers wanted," said Evans. "Since we have had to tone them down so much, one of [the events] only had five guys."

While he is hopeful the next leather talk event will draw a crowd because it is being hosted by Terry Gauchet, a title holder within the leather community, Evans said the title alone would have failed to draw a crowd.

"Leather talk sounds like something on the Oxygen Network or a Lifetime original movie starring Jean Smart," he said.

Tony Koester, who won the San Francisco Leather Daddy XX title in July, agreed the toned down



Leather Daddy XX Tony Koester

event pitch sounds more like a *Saturday Night Live* sketch than an HIV intervention workshop.

"I am not fond of leather talk. It really sounds like I should go there dressed like Linda Richman clutching my pearls," said Koester, referring to Mike Meyers's character in his *SNL* "Coffee Talk" skits.

Koester, who serves on the project's board and helps facilitate the leather forums, said the censorship has been frustrating because it is impeding on the project's mission to stop the transmission of HIV, especially within a population that is at great risk of contracting the virus.

"Each time we are told we cannot do this or say this it puts these men at risk. They don't have the venues to go to and talk openly and safely about their sexual practices," he said. "We are getting our hands tied behind our back when we want to go out to the community and try to educate the community."

The agency's frustration level with the censorship became apparent earlier this year after the leather fuck title had been rejected again by the review panel. Instead of using a new name, the agency decided to let its feelings be known.

"We had one couple months ago where basically all we did was take out the word fuck and put a red stripe across it that said censored and that was approved," said Koester. "If we could get nonfederal funding to do these types of events, then we don't have to deal with the materials review board."

To boost its unrestricted funding, the agency is hosting an array of events to help it fund raise. A music in the park event this past Sunday helped raised \$600. And the agency hopes to raise \$50,000 from its annual prevention awards event in October.

The agency's goal is to eventually see its funding split evenly between federal money and private donations. But for now, it has set a goal of raising its private funding to 30 percent this year. Any increase in private funding helps the project plan events it otherwise could not host.

"Take those guys playing on the edge. They are a lot harder to reach. And if we have to be so careful about the ways that we attract them, we simply are not going to attract them," said Evans. "The result is we simply don't reach them and that is a travesty." ▼

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Harvey's, Diesel brighten Castro business climate

by Matthew S. Bakko

As the city's downtown business district suffers through a souring economy, the Castro is celebrating the addition of several new businesses to the district, and a return of a beloved watering hole.

After closing its doors five months ago, Harvey's in the Castro quietly reopened its doors on Tuesday, September 10 with a new look and expanded menu. A fire on April 20 forced the restaurant to go dark for most of the spring and summer.

"I felt like a dingo ate my baby being closed on Pride," said Harvey's general manager Kevin Kopp. "Harvey's, for a lot of people, is kind of this anchor. They either start here, finish here, or stop here on their way. Having it closed just felt wrong. It is such a significant corner. We are glad to be back."

Customers of the local landmark at 18th and Castro streets will find more pasta offerings, more salad choices, and newly added crab and shrimp dishes, along with seven newly hired employees. Most of the original staff has returned to work, and they helped get the freshly painted Harvey's open one month earlier than expected.

And neighborhood residents have greeted the return of the place with open arms. To celebrate its reopening, Harvey's is hosting a drag show after the Castro Street Fair on October 6.

"It kind of feels like we came home for the holidays. Everyone's been really positive," said Kopp. "It's been really great for the whole staff to work so hard to get it reopened and have such a positive response. It's been really wonderful."

New store

Situated at another high traffic corner at Market and Castro



Waiter Robert DeWees prepares to serve brunch at Harvey's last Sunday.

streets, Diesel also quietly opened its doors on Saturday, September 14. The store is hosting an invite-only grand opening party tonight (Thursday, September 26) to celebrate the Italian fashion purveyor's second location in the city.

The space had been shuttered for nearly two years after Bank of America and the Gay Men's Chorus moved out of the building. Diesel spent most of the summer working on the interior of the space and repainted the exterior in a quieter tone than the old pink. The retailer left the building's brick exposed on the inside and added a chandelier above the store's entrance.

"The response has been great," said Bridget Russo, Diesel's director of public relations. "The space specifically for that store is gorgeous. Architecturally, it is an amazing space."

Offering clothes not to be found at its downtown location, Diesel aims to cater to the neighborhood's style and taste. The store carries a small selection for both men and women, including shoes, backpacks, and its signature denim jeans.

"No matter what Diesel store you walk into there is a sort of feel and image, but we pull from the local flavor," said Russo. "Every store is stocked differently. The individual shopping in San Francisco is probably a little different than the one in the New York Store."

New restaurant

Over at 2362 Market Street, David Weiss is overseeing the final touches on his new restaurant, Catch, in hopes for an October 8 opening. He said he plans to have his kitchen up and running in two weeks so his crew can prepare and taste the eatery's seafood offerings such as paella and bouillabaisse.

Entrees will range from \$7 to \$14 and small plates will cost \$4 to \$8. Most of the menu items will be served to customers right from the stove in their cooking dishes.

"I like the presentation. This way you get all the flavors and juices," explained Weiss.

His first restaurant in San Francisco, Weiss has owned establishments on the Peninsula and in the East Bay. The former home to Harvey Milk's camera shop, Under One Roof, and the Names Project offices, the location has been completely renovated and its facade repaired to its original condition. The restaurant's dining

page 16 ►



The just-opened Diesel store at Castro and Market streets.

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Activists allege homophobia in homeless reform measure

by Zak Szymanski

Supervisor Gavin Newsom's popular Care Not Cash initiative, slated for the November ballot as Proposition N, has been holding steady at a nearly 75 percent voter approval rating. The measure would cut city welfare — or General Assistance — payments to more than 2,800 single homeless people from about \$395 to \$59 per month, and require that people receiving GA stay in shelters until affordable long-term housing solutions are found.

While the LGBT community remains largely supportive of the measure — about half the signatures to qualify the measure for the ballot were obtained from District 8 — other queer activists are beginning to question whether Proposition N is inherently homophobic.

"Gavin Newsom wants to take away cash from single homeless folks; gee who are most single homeless folks?" asked Michael "Salim" McCarron in the September issue of *Street Sheet*, the publication printed by the San Francisco Coalition on Homelessness.

"By most estimates, 40 percent of homeless youths are queer," stated McCarron, who also noted that in the state of California, since there is no same-sex marriage and domestic partnerships are not recognized by the welfare system "all homeless queers are in the state of California."



Supervisor Gavin Newsom

The disproportionate way that Proposition N would affect queers is not the only thing that bothers McCarron, who pointed out what other homeless advocates have long said: LGBT people often suffer abuse in city shelters.

Because the homeless will be required to stay in shelters to receive their GA, activist Tommi Avicolli Mecca worries that gay people who must escape an abusive situation will wind up losing their \$59 per month.

"If a queer person in a shelter gets raped, beaten, and harassed and refuses to go back to that same shelter the following night, they would get kicked off of GA under Care Not Cash," said Avicolli Mecca. "We know this abuse happens, and for these people to lose their GA because of something they didn't do, under any other circumstances this would be considered so outrageous and immoral."

Jim Ross, the campaign manager

of Care Not Cash, said that these concerns did not take into account that potential abusers would be risking their own welfare checks, thereby having less incentive to be abusive.

"Somebody that harasses somebody else in a shelter is committing a major rule violation, which puts their own GA at risk, so there's now a bigger punishment tool for that kind of behavior," said Ross, noting that Newsom has also separately introduced legislation to the Board of Supervisors that increases shelter security and safety measures.

Ross also cited gay community support for Proposition N from Supervisor Mark Leno and the Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democratic Club.

Board of Supervisors President Tom Ammiano and the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club have come out against Proposition N.

Furthermore, said Ross, the goal of Care Not Cash is to get people out of shelters and into long-term affordable housing.

"It's part of the language of the bill. The money saved from giving out welfare payments has to go into long-term housing," said Ross.

Nevertheless, someone on GA must remain in a shelter until that housing is built or becomes available, and to people like Avicolli Mecca, the lack of protections for LGBT homeless people is unacceptable.

"As queers we need to just say 'No,'" he said. "We're not going to participate in this type of abuse of our people." ▶

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CONTINUE TO TELL THE STORY...

Changes proposed for Castro Halloween

by Joe Dignan

Members of the San Francisco Late Night Coalition are proposing some changes to one of San Francisco's biggest unsanctioned street parties, Halloween in the Castro, in the hope of returning the event to its roots as a celebration of gay identity.

"Last year it was really ugly," said gay event promoter Don Spradlin, producer of circuit parties HellBall and ReUnion and one

of the advocates for a change. "It's not a safe place for gay people anymore, and it's our home."

The Late Night Coalition members want to produce entertainment, primarily on or around Market Street, with the intention of drawing out and thinning the crowd on Castro Street and, according to SFLNC co-chair John Wood, "to give the crowd something to do besides drink."

Last year's party, which police estimated was attended by as many as half a million people over the course of the night, with 200,000 at its peak, was the most troublesome in recent years. Despite what police estimated to be a slightly decreased attendance, mainly attributed to the September 11 attacks, according to Mission Station Captain Greg Corrales, last year's party "was much more violent" than any other Halloween in recent memory.

As it is now, Halloween is the city's largest spontaneous, but completely illegal, event. Police and officials from the Department of Public Works spend weeks planning for it. Muni reroutes bus service. At present, however, no one has applied for any permits for this year's celebration.

The party has been fueled by sidewalk liquor sales by the bar and restaurant owners in the area. Many of these businesses have on-sale licenses which permit them to sell liquor for consumption on their premises, but most are not supposed to sell for take away – so these sales are technically illegal. According to Deputy Police Chief Greg Suhr, "The lion's share of the problems are around alcohol."

Last year's event was also attended by 180 police officers, many in riot gear, whose overtime bill alone came to about \$78,000, according to Corrales. In addition, the city also paid the bill for an additional 33 Department of Parking and Traffic officers and \$15,000 for private security personnel to augment the police presence.

Because of concerns about violence in recent years, merchant groups and others have attempted to move the party out of the Castro to the Civic Center. Last year, the party there was only sparsely attended with, according to police estimates, a maximum of 2,000 to 3,000 revelers. Many observers have given up on that idea, which Suhr says also drains police re-



From left, Jamby, Pee-Wee, Chairy, and Miss Yvonne at the 2000 Castro Halloween party.

sources by requiring cops at both locations.

"There's no way it's going to end. People are going to come here no matter what. We've tried to move some of the crowd out of the Castro. It hasn't worked," said Barry Hermanson, vice president of the Merchants of Upper Market and Castro.

While San Francisco's Halloween festivities have been centered around the gay community, there has always been a strong heterosexual presence.

"It's like Mardi Gras in Catholic cultures," said Paul Gabriel of the GLBT Historical Society of Northern California. "It's been about gender bending, fun, and sexual release. San Franciscans have always identified queer people at the center of that and wanted to be there with them. You can drink a lot and do what you feel – but you can put on a mask."

But gay leaders, like MUMC President Patrick Batt, say that the straight visitors have overwhelmed the party.

"It's straight people, 'bridge and tunnel' kids, coming in for no apparent reason. It's not a gay event," Batt said.

History

San Francisco's Halloween celebrations in the gay community began in the 1940s, according to historian Gabriel, with good-natured competitions between drag queens of the era. Centered around the Black Cat bar on Kearny Street, costumed drag queens would hire busses and

trucks to make an organized pilgrimage from gay bar to gay bar, mainly in North Beach, tying with each other for the most outrageous costumes.

"It was one of the few times that gay people could dress up and not be punished," Gabriel said.

According to Gabriel, laws at the time required that cross dressers "had to have two pieces of same gender clothing." So many gay partygoers wore signs, with the Black Cat's arched-back "chat noir" logo on them, that said "I'm a boy."

When the police closed the Black Cat, on Halloween night in 1963, and the center of the gay community moved to Polk Gulch in the early 1960s, the party went with it. In the mid-1970s, as more and more gay people settled in the Castro, the party migrated there.

Several groups have tried to tame the beast as it grew. The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence tried, from 1990-1994. They produced a stage, in conjunction with Community United Against Violence, with entertainment and a costume contest. They requested a donation for entry and, according to organizer Dahn Van Laarz, more than paid for their event costs every year and returned money to several charities.

"It was very successful," Van Laarz said.

Ironically, it was that success that ultimately ended the Sisters' involvement. "The crowd kept growing to an unmanageable size and it was becoming an unsafe event," Van Laarz said. "We weren't able to find a way of trying to work

with the city government. The cops were not helpful at the time."

Some gay community leaders are pessimistic about the prospects for a peaceful celebration in the Castro. When asked what his dream for a perfect Castro Halloween celebration would be, MUMC's Batt said, "No party."

But others are more sanguine. San Francisco Board of Supervisors President Tom Ammiano said he supports the idea of entertainment on the street. His vision, "If I could wave my magic wand," he said, "would be big and peaceful, with lots of bathrooms, not too much booze, and things for kids to do earlier in the evening."

The shortage of bathrooms has been a perennial problem. MUMC provided about 60 last year, paid for with donations by merchants who sold food and liquor, but according to Batt, "A thousand might not be enough."

Supervisor Mark Leno said he hopes the merchants and entertainment advocates can work together. He said he agrees with the SFLNC that having entertainment on Market Street will help disperse the crowd on Castro and make it more peaceful.

Spradlin said that his vision for the evening would certainly include some kind of costume contest.

SFLNC President Terrance Alan said that this year, given that Halloween is just over a month away, on Thursday, October 31, he would like to provide some music for dancing "and maybe some art on Market Street," with a vision that next year the event could become more formalized.

Pride Parade Executive Director Teddy Witherington cautioned that anyone trying to take responsibility for the event, and take out city permits for it, would "become a target for blame" and would become responsible for the large costs of producing it, which he estimated at \$100,000, including city fees, insurance, and portable toilets, before "they have even provided anything for the audience."

Ammiano has called for hearings on the subject of Halloween, but the only forum currently scheduled for community involvement will be at MUMC's next meeting on Thursday, October 3 from 9:30 a.m. in the community meeting room at 501 Castro Street, at 18th. The public is invited. ▼

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Castro business

◀ page 14

room will seat 40 people, a patio area with fireplace will seat 35 and sidewalk tables will seat 15.

"I am planning on doing a retrospective on the building with old photos," said Weiss.

More changes

Other changes are in store for the Castro as two longtime businesses continue to finalize their plans and obtain required permits from the city, and another prepares to shut down come next year.

Cliff's Variety continues to remain in a holding pattern with construction on its new store to replace its old fabric shop. The store had to halt work on the project earlier this summer after the city's planning department said it had failed to obtain the proper permits.

The problem occurred after construction crews tore down the old facade of the fabric shop building adjacent to the hardware store's

479 Castro Street location. Although Cliff's Variety owner Ernie Asten had told city planners he would do just that when he first applied for his permits, he said he was never told he needed additional permits to take down the facade.

"The Planning Commission approved a second story and approved a new facade to it that matches the style of the adjacent building so it will look like one building across. They approved that in the resolution but it didn't occur to anyone that we had to take the old facade down and needed a permit," said Asten.

Asten reapplied for a supplemental permit and expected to begin work this month, but he said his permit has been lost at the building department for the past two weeks.

"Ultimately they will find it," he said.

The delay in construction has caused the store to scramble to find space for its Halloween selection this year. Originally, Asten said he had hoped to have the new

building ready to be used to house the seasonal items he had ordered in the spring.

"Now it doesn't even look like it would be there for Christmas," he said of the new building. "We lost two solid months."

Once completed, the new building will house fabrics, furniture, and designer hardware, such as cabinet knobs and upscale light switch plates. There will also be offices for the store on the second floor.

"As soon as we get the permit we will get back to work so it can start to look like something other than a hole in the wall," said Asten.

Across the street, Valley Pride Market at 474 Castro Street is preparing to vacate its building next year to make way for Superstar Satellite Video to relocate there from its 18th Street space. On December 19 the video store is expected to request a change in use permit from the Planning Commission for the location.

Having outgrown its current space, the video store is looking to expand into the larger, more

prominent Castro address. The owner of the video store bought the new building this year and has already approached business and neighborhood groups to request support for his plans.

"We are very excited about getting in there, cleaning it up, and making significant cosmetic improvements to the building and the store front," said Andrew Sheriff, the video store's general manager. "Part of our plans are restoring the mosaic and repainting the building in a color more complementary to the colors in the mosaic."

The relocation will enable the video store to display more of its ever expanding list of titles. The store carries Hollywood blockbusters and independent films as well as films that are a favorite with its mostly gay clientele.

"We did think if we had to move there is no better location than that one on Castro Street. For our business to succeed, we had to stay at the crosshairs of the 18th and Castro Street intersection," said Sheriff. ▼

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Leather family

◀ page 1

the community continues to be on the forefront of redefining roles, relationships, and responsibility.

"One thing that makes me proud is that I've noticed people in relationships who are also part of the leather community tend to stay in relationships longer," said Stephen Weber, the reigning International Mr. Leather. "They may define the boundaries of their relationship differently from others but they tend to stick through things together. I can't help but think it's the support of the leather family that helps to make that happen, plus there's a lot of maturity in the leather community that I don't necessarily see in other parts of GLBT

communities." While emphasizing that all communities have their good and bad people, Weber said that the leather community's enhanced maturity in part comes from accepting the need for boundaries in order to make everything safe, sane, and consensual for everyone. The work it takes to do this – all while having fun and main-

taining respect – may also be a part of what Weber sees as a community with less reliance on party drugs, and more of an open mind toward all types of people.

"Part of my platform as International Mr. Leather is to help fight discrimination within our own leather community, around race, sex, and age, but also around gender identity, body types and sizes, and other factors that people use to determine what is 'attractive,'" said Weber. "This is a societal problem, and therefore the leather community is not immune to this, but I've noticed much more tolerance within the scene for all different kinds of people. It's very encouraging to watch us open our arms and minds and realize everyone has something to offer."

Ren Davis Phoenix, 48, a long-time leather activist and founder of the Dyke Daddy, Dyke Diva, and Dyke Boy contests, agrees.

"The leather and SM communities have always been the evolving cutting edge of human expression," she said, noting that when she founded the Dyke Daddy contest "it was the first organized vehicle for male identity within women's circles."

Celebrating evolving identities

is what keeps the scene going, according to Weber, who credits "boys" – people of all genders who are often in a submissive relationship with a Mommy or Daddy – for "rejuvenating the scene and bringing the energy back."

For Sheila, 70, a longtime member of the leather community who is known in the scene by her first name, determining where she belonged among the roles was a challenge, and she encourages the leather community to "celebrate the andro communities as well."

But as new people continue to come into the scene, the old guard cautions against not taking the time to learn the etiquette and one's own personal limitations.

"Today people don't really get mentored, let alone have a master," said Sir C, 54, a leatherdyke who is in from Arizona for Folsom. Sir C cited the early community's involvement with the AIDS epidemic as a factor in its continuing concern for safety of all kinds.

For Weber, the community's public education seminars are a good step toward educating newcomers on SM and leather rules, but watching younger gay men fall into risky sex behaviors is a source of frustration.

"I think we should think about going out to the circuit crowd and educating them on what happened to the leather community 15-20 years ago and just say, 'Hey, it's not worth it,'" said Weber.

While HIV/AIDS does not carry the same political energy that it once did, the leather community does remain politicized around health issues, and of course, freedom of expression.

For Weber, working with the National Coalition for Sexual Freedom and organizing around the passage of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act are two causes he feels strongly about. And his recent move from Texas to Washington, D.C. puts him exactly where he needs to be to see those efforts through.

For Davis Phoenix, organizing around the recent right-wing attacks of leather events has the potential to bring the leather community even closer.

And for people like Mike McNamee, owner of San Francisco's Stompers Boots, the leather lifestyle is up to the individual, and no single political banner can encompass the entire community.

"The outside observer might view this population as motorcycle-riding, hard-imaged, leather-wearing, tough guys. Others would see a fetish driven, sexually charged, homoerotic emphasis. Stompers embraces all these views ... and chooses to keep a level of mystification and tribal energy surrounding the leather scene," said McNamee. "And while we prefer not to overly politicize our leather lifestyles, we will however, join forces to battle any challenges involving the freedom to celebrate our lifestyle."

When the Folsom Street Fair opens its gates again on Sunday, there will be countless new and returning faces. A mix of tradition and curiosity, the fair will above all encourage all safe, sane, and consensual expression. How this spirit will evolve in the coming years could surprise and challenge even the most seasoned of leather folk.

"We're about power, and as humans that can be fearful," summarized Davis Phoenix. "But we can arrive at the logic that we are all more alike than different. And whatever we try to do as a community must be based on that clarity." ▼

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Judicial nominee divides gay community

by Bob Roehr

The nomination of conservative legal scholar Michael W. McConnell to a seat on the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals sitting in Denver has generated both opposition and support within the gay community. The nomination was made more than a year ago and the Senate Judiciary Committee held a confirmation hearing on September 18.

McConnell played a leading role in drafting the appeal to the Supreme Court in the case of *Boy Scouts of America v. Dale*. The Court ruled 5-4 that the Scouts, as a private organization, had the right to discriminate against homosexuals. However, neither that case nor other gay issues arose during the Senate hearing.

McConnell is a professor of law at the University of Utah and prior to that taught at the University of Chicago. He clerked for two highly regarded and influential liberal judges, Chief Judge J. Skelly Wright of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit and U.S. Supreme Court Justice William J. Brennan Jr. He is an expert on constitutional law, particularly with regard to religion.

Many feminist groups oppose McConnell because of his personal opposition to abortion. Americans United for Separation of Church and State challenges his leading role in breaking down that separation. While many activist groups oppose him, an unusually broad spectrum of conservative to liberal legal scholars supports the nominee. The American Bar Association has found him "well qualified" to serve on the court.

The senators' questions at the hearing focused on abortion and religion. McConnell said that as a judge, he would accept the legal principles of *Roe v. Wade* as outlined by the Supreme Court. He discussed the difference between the role of a professor, which is to stimulate thinking, and that of a judge, which is to apply the law as interpreted by the Supreme Court.

One exchange at the hearing may have an impact on gaining equal marriage rights for gays. McConnell was asked about polygamy, simultaneous marriage to more than one person. He said

that the state did not care if a person had five partners, but if people chose to put it into a religious context of marriage, the state then says no. McConnell found that a contradiction and urged the state to stay out of people's lives.

Opposition

"McConnell's role in the Dale lawsuit demonstrates a hostility to gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender rights," the Human Rights Campaign declared in a statement opposing the nomination. It also took him to task for his opposition to the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, a leading legislative goal for HRC.

"This would be the only civil rights law which is preventing people from hiring or firing on the basis of a moral judgment," McConnell said during a radio interview on National Public Radio in 1996. Separately he argued that passage of ENDA "contains an approval of homosexual behavior."

McConnell's view that gay rights conflict with religious morality issues raises strong questions about his ability to distinguish intolerance from religious



HRC's Winnie Stachelberg

virtue," said Winnie Stachelberg, HRC's political director. "He seems to think that people can discriminate with impunity, as long as they justify it with religion."

Evan Wolfson had a more nuanced but no less fervent opposition to McConnell. He was the lead attorney with the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund that defended *Dale*; he now leads the Freedom to Marry Collaborative working for equal marriage

rights for gays.

"I think that [McConnell] thinks that he is reaching objective opinions about what he believes the proper balance in society ought to be, what the proper constitutional law ought to be. That he thinks of them as not suffused with bigotry, but genuinely a product of sincere, rigorous thought."

"But I also think the end products of his views are ferociously anti-gay. It's too easy for him to confuse where his religious beliefs take him with an objective product of intellectual inquiry."

"Therefore I question as to whether he could ever set that aside as a judge and not impose his personal predilections and outcomes on the law, even though he may think, in good faith, that he is doing some kind of true intellectual distancing," Wolfson said.

For Wolfson, McConnell's "reasoning comes out extremely conveniently where his religious doctrine takes him, to the detriment of our equal rights, and beyond that, to the detriment of the proper protective balance between church and state, a balance that protects both church and state, and certainly protects minorities."

Log Cabin support

A few days before the hearing, Log Cabin Republicans was unsure if it would endorse McConnell, said Executive Director Rich Tafel. One criterion was a meeting with the nominee to discuss some reservations they had. The Department of Justice arranged that meeting.

Tafel said it was off the record, as is standard for all nominees during the confirmation process, so he did not feel comfortable discussing details of their conversation. But he left assured that McConnell was not a homophobe and that he would enforce the law fairly. And McConnell asked Tafel to be his guest the next day at the Judiciary Committee hearing.

Log Cabin Republicans subsequently endorsed McConnell. "He's a true civil libertarian who adheres to principles regardless of politics. We need more judges, not less, like him in America," said Tafel in a written statement.

He called *Dale* "a tough case. The Boy Scouts are wrong in banning gay leaders from their ranks. However, freedom of association is a cherished right within the gay community. We also don't want to be told who we must accept as leaders within our own organizations."

Log Cabin cited McConnell's defense of the right of a gay student alliance to meet in Utah public schools, his published opposition to state sodomy laws, and his opposition to the impeachment of President Bill Clinton as examples.

of his principles of fairness.

Tafel also had encouraged a briefing of the gay press on the nominee by a senior member of the Department of Justice. The on-again, off-again briefing ultimately did not take place because of administrative glitches.

Tafel's goal in working with the administration is to have the gay community "completely in the loop" on judicial nominations, particularly when one arises for the Supreme Court.

Debate over McConnell is taking place within a broader context of all judicial nominations and an increasingly ideological confirmation process. ▼



Log Cabin's Rich Tafel

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DP announce

◀ page 1

ties), or in the Santa Cruz area.

• Announcements must be submitted within one month of the public ceremony in celebration of a domestic partnership or obtaining a Vermont civil union.

• Submissions should be between 300-400 words and may be edited.

• For public commitment ceremonies, holy unions, or a Vermont civil union, the couple must have entered into a registered domestic partnership or obtained a civil union. The couple must supply a copy of such registration (i.e., domestic partnership through the city of San Francisco or other Bay Area city or through the California domestic partner registry or a Vermont civil union).

• The announcement must be typed and include: the full names of the partners; the date, time, and exact location of the service; the partners' occupation, education, and other noteworthy accomplishments; family information if applicable; the name and title of

the person officiating the ceremony; daytime and cell phone numbers. Other information, such as how the couple met, can also be included.

• You may submit a photo. If you want it returned, provide a self-addressed, stamped envelope and put your name and address on the back of the picture. You must identify each person in the photo. You can submit photos via e-mail; the picture should be sent in a TIFF or JPG format and be of high resolution. Include the photographer's name if credit is required.

To reiterate, there will be no charge for the announcements, although we cannot guarantee publication. Announcements likely will be published once a month. Depending on the reader response, these guidelines are subject to change.

Announcements may be sent via e-mail at BARpaper@aol.com or mail to Bay Area Reporter, 395 9th Street, San Francisco, CA 94103. For questions, please send an e-mail to the above address. ▼

— Cynthia Laird, news editor

LGBT domestic violence on the rise

by Zak Szymanski

The number of nationally reported LGBT domestic violence incidents rose 25 percent last year, according to data gathered by the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs, released by San Francisco's Community United Against Violence on Tuesday, September 24.

The figures released represent the collaboration of 26 community-based organizations in nine regions of the United States and are likely just a fraction of the actual cases of LGBT domestic violence that occur each year, since many go unreported. Nevertheless, the 5,046 reported incidents in 2001 represent a substantial increase over the 4,048 cases reported in 2000. San Francisco had the sec-

ond-highest number of cases, with 694 reported, about the same as in 2000. Nationally, seven murders were attributable to LGBT domestic violence.

"The numbers testify to the magnitude of the problem," said CUAV's Shawna Virago at the press conference announcing the increase in incidents. The annual report, said Virago, represented the community's "coming out of the closet about same-sex domestic violence."

LGBT domestic violence survivors still lack legal protections in many states, and police departments and prosecutors — often confused by who would be the "aggressor" in a gay relationship — often label incidents as "mutual abuse," particularly when a victim attempts to fight back. Even in San Francisco, as one survivor named Michael testified, it can be difficult to seek and receive protection when an abuser is the same sex as the victim.

"There is an unwillingness to take it seriously," said Michael, who declined to give his last name, describing his past year of threatening phone calls and beatings, unanswered phone calls from the district attorney's office, and police reluctance to issue and enforce a restraining order. Michael's abusive



CUAV's Shawna Virago

partner was finally arrested for attempted shoplifting, and sentenced to 45 days in jail based on his assaulting strangers in the process.

District Attorney Terence Hallinan was scheduled to make an appearance at the news conference, but instead sent a representative to read a statement. Ten percent of the district attorney's domestic violence cases are from LGBT victims, Hallinan's statement said, and more training to recognize aggressors is necessary at all levels, including within the police department.

Domestic violence can take

many forms, noted the report including physical assaults but also threats to reveal secrets such as HIV status; calling a partner names; isolating a partner from family or friends; withholding finances; sexual assault or manipulation; threatening suicide or harm if a partner decides to end a relationship; or using facets of identity including race, gender, class, ability, or education level to demean, insult, isolate, or otherwise oppress a partner.

Several groups were on hand to offer their support to the LGBT community, including the Asian Women's Shelter and WOMAN, Inc. Together with CUAV, these organizations work to empower victims, help victims file restraining orders and seek other protections, and follow victims' cases to ensure their safety, and where possible, legal justice. ▼

The Asian Women's Shelter, which provides culturally appropriate services that some victims may not find elsewhere, can be reached at (415) 751-7110. WOMAN, Inc. can be reached at (415) 864-4722. CUAV can be reached at (415) 777-5500. CUAV's crisis line is (415) 777-HELP.

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China frees outspoken AIDS doc

by Mike Salinas

After withstanding a torrent of criticism from the international science, human rights, and AIDS communities for 26 days, Chinese officials abruptly released Dr. Wan Yanhai from custody Friday, September 20. Wan, China's best known AIDS expert, had been detained in a secret location since August 24, apparently for posting a classified government document on an Internet Web site.

The document was embarrassing to the Chinese government because it revealed that the abnormally high HIV infection rate among farmers in the Henan Province was due to unsanitary blood transfusion techniques — but in a twist, the people who had been infected were blood donors, not recipients. Shortly after posting the document on the AIDS information site AIZHI.com, Wan disappeared, prompting such groups as the Committee for the Protection of Journalists and the New York Academy of Sciences (which, despite its name, is an international group of some 23,000 scientists) to write to the Chinese government demanding his release.

It was not the first time Wan had infuriated officials. Although married, the doctor is among the more visible activists for gay rights in China and was the host of a Beijing-based radio show for gay men — now estimated by the Chinese Ministry of Health as numbering between 2 million and 8 million — until the government forced it off the air. Ten years ago he established "Men's World," a program to teach gay men about HIV and other health issues, which authorities closed down the following year. At the same time, they accused Wan of promoting homosexuality and supporting prostitution, because of his advocacy for the civil rights of sex workers.



Dr. Wan Yanhai

AIDS activists held demonstrations on three continents to condemn Wan's detention. Protesters hurled fake blood at the Chinese embassy in Paris; Hong Kong demonstrators marched through the streets; and ACT UP members in New York joined with Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch members to picket across the street from the Chinese Consulate, holding signs that read "Silence=Death" in English and Chinese.

The next day, without comment from the Chinese government, Wan was released. His wife, Su Zhaozheng, confirmed to the media that she spoke with Wan, and a note on the ACT UP/New York Web site stated that one of that group's members had also

spoken directly to the doctor, who said only that he had been held somewhere in Beijing.

Wan's wife spoke briefly at the U.S. Conference on AIDS that took place in Anaheim, California last weekend. "Normally, I talk with my husband every day but suddenly I couldn't reach him at home or on his cell," she said, referring to his August disappearance. "I am very, very happy that he has been released and look forward to seeing him. From speaking with him, I think that he will be coming to the United States in late October."

The decision to release Wan likely was based on simple economics. Activists repeatedly pointed out that the Chinese government has a pending request to the United Nations Global Fund for AIDS for \$90 million, and questioned whether it was wise to invest so much money in a country that would imprison its foremost expert on the disease. In addition, Chinese president Jiang Zemin plans to visit the United States next month, and the scientific community had called upon President Bush to demand an end to Wan's detention.

Wan has reportedly expressed contrition for posting a document that was classified, but has also said his detention would not deter him from carrying on his work to fight AIDS in China, which is expected to have 10 million cases of HIV infection by the end of the decade. ▼

Art for Life

◀ page 5

someone living with AIDS.

In addition to the opportunity to purchase art of all mediums, auction attendees also receive a day of music, complimentary wine and hors d'oeuvres, and a chance to buy raffle tickets (\$5 each or 25 for \$100), with prizes including a theater weekend in New York, a

weekend in Vail, Colorado, and several Sonoma County getaway packages.

All proceeds from Art for Life go to Face to Face programs and services, which include immediate access to HIV health care planning and emotional support. All services are provided at no charge to clients.

To purchase tickets for Art for Life, call (707) 544-1581. More information on Face to Face is available at www.f2f.org. ▼

OBITUARY POLICY

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. Please follow normal rules of capitalization – and no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste.

If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death.

Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

James E. Castle

James E. Castle
of San Andreas, Calaveras County, died September 12, 2002 in Sacramento from complications of hepatitis B. He was 46.

Born July 9, 1956 in Ft. Worth, Texas, Castle moved to San Francisco in the 1980s from New Orleans where he lived after graduating high school in Michigan in 1974.

Castle was, according to his friends, an intriguing man with an intriguing past. Self-educated, he was intellectually demanding, and intensely curious.

He lived a number of different lives, taking him from one great extreme to another. Castle lived much of his life on the edge, eschewing social roles and constrictions. When it was time, he battled and conquered his personal demons.

A very private man, he was involved in the community, tutoring adults and serving on the Board of Directors of the

Calaveras Adult Tutoring Program. He wrote in his journal that he wanted to inspire people, and did.

He finished his life raising goats and reflecting on life in the hills of Calaveras County where he lived with his partner Matt Greenwood. They spent more than four years together on the 15 acres they bought outside San Andreas, raising Nubian goats and weaving themselves into the local community.

Castle was a man of many passions and found and created art in much of what he encountered. He crafted intricate, often startling collages, refinished antiques, collected art glass, clocks and wrote.

Castle is survived by his partner in life, Matt Greenwood, many friends in San Francisco, the Sierra foothills, and across the United States.

A service will be held at 11 a.m., October 13 at San Andreas Memorial Chapel in San Andreas. A celebration of life and display of Castle's art will be held following the service at the San Andreas Fire Hall, 37 Church Hill Road, San Andreas.

Jim Cross

Jim Cross, of San Francisco, California, died at San Francisco General Hospital in the company of his parents and friends on 12 September, 2002. He was 44.

Jim was an active member of and contributor to the local recovery and artistic communities, and will be remembered for his wicked sense of humor, sharp tongue, and gentle spirit.

Jim is survived by his parents, James and Caroline, as well as his brother George and sister Melinda.

Donations may be made in Jim's name to The Castro Country Club at 4058 18th Street, or to Baker Places at 310 Townsend St., Ste. 400.

Jim's family and friends also wish to thank the doctors and nurses of SF General Ward 5E (ICU) and Ward 86 for their incredible professionalism and compassion.

A memorial will be held for Jim on Saturday, 28 September at 12 p.m. at the AIDS Memorial Grove in Golden Gate Park with a reception following at the Castro Country Club. For more information e-mail JimsMemorial@yahoo.com

Paul John Faivor, R.N.
April 1, 1951 — July 31, 2002

Paul died after a short hospitalization at Davies with close friends Millie Mongee and Chris Winkler at his side. Paul is survived by his mom, Helen Detroit, and brothers Mike of Austin and Bill of Durham, and other relatives in California, Texas and Michigan.

A retired head nurse from Laguna Honda Hospital, Paul was an avid world traveler with colleague and buddy, Ruth Ryan. A funeral mass was held August 8th at St. Dominic's. On Friday, October 4th at 4 p.m., there will be a celebration of Paul's life and spirit at Laguna Honda Hospital Chapel. Paul is and will be continued to be missed by friends John, Debbie, Flo, David, Bea and Jonathan among others locally and throughout the U.S.A.

For more information, email jgold4@webtv.net or call Jonathan at 415-641-4231.

William J. Fugelsang

March 4, 1958 — August 29, 2002



Bill Fugelsang, friend and faerie, died suddenly and unexpectedly on August 29th in Europe. Bill loved San Francisco and considered it his home, although he resided in Amsterdam for the past five years. He was an accomplished musician, patron of the arts, AIDS activist, computer geek and world traveler. Bill was dearly

loved by many friends in San Francisco and worldwide.

We will celebrate his life on Saturday, October 5th at 4 p.m. at the home of Sandy Schnell, 1155 Stanyan (at Par-nassus). Please bring favorite photos, music, and stories to share.

Harry L. Lohmar

Harry L. Lohmar passed away on September 18, 2002 in San Francisco, a long-time Potrero Hill resident. He

leaves two brothers, Rex White of Oak's, North Dakota and Paul Lohmar of Crystal, Minnesota; three sisters, Esther Coy of Mt. View, Deliah Stomberg of Menlo Park, and Beverly Ankrum of Redwood Falls, Maryland; his long-time friend Van of San Francisco; many nieces and nephews.

Memorial services will be held on Sunday, September 29, 2002 at 3 p.m. at Driscoll's Comisky, Anderson, Valencia St. Serra Mortuary, 1465 Valencia St. (at 26th St.). Call 415-970-8801.



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Michael Greer

◀ page 1

up, he competed with other performers, and the contest finished as follows: first place Tiny Tim; second place Barbra Streisand; third place Michael Greer. In those days, it was quite a coup to be on stage and come in third thanks to two people who would go on to fame and fortune.

One fateful day, Mr. Greer and his good friend Jay Noonan went to see the Mona Lisa on tour from the Louvre. Noonan recalls Michael coming up right away with the voice of Mona and the rest is history. His Mona Lisa take became legendary; his act was constantly updated, with funnier and funnier remarks added. To the day he died, he and Mona were fast friends. He did many other famous impersonations and voice overlays for stars like Bette Davis when they were unavailable, but Mona was his and alone.

Mr. Greer started to tour around New York and other cities along the East Coast to great acclaim and success. And like so many others before him, he went to Hollywood seeking a career in show business. He did quite well by starring in the first gay comedy ever filmed, *The Gay Deceivers*.



Michael Greer as Mona Lisa

The film was made in Canada and was very well received and it is still one of the funniest gay spoofs ever; still available on video, it is highly recommended. Mr. Greer plays a drag housekeeper who runs a gay apartment complex. He rents to some guys he thinks are gay at first, but turn out to be draft dodgers from the Vietnam War – the plot goes uproariously downhill from there.

Then came a starring role in the New York production of the play *Fortune in Men's Eyes*, directed by Sal Mineo. A major first for gay history, Mr. Greer also starred

in the 1971 film version directed by Harvey Hart. Both the play and the movie are lasting testimonials to Mr. Greer and Mineo.

In Hollywood, Mr. Greer put together a show called "Jack and the Giants." It was among the very first drag shows that featured live voices (not lip-sync) in comedy skits with singing and dancing. The show came to San Francisco and performed at the 524 Club (the old Paper Doll) on Union Street in North Beach. It was a funny fast-paced show that also included his Mona Lisa monologue. From the 524, they went on to the Fantasy Club downtown and had a long, successful run.

In later years Mr. Greer did a lot of writing for stars like Carol Lawrence, Bette Midler, and Debbie Reynolds. He even was an opening act for Debbie Reynolds in Reno. He entertained on cruise ships, emceed many dinners and continued his own singing and comedy act.

Mr. Greer is survived by a sister and brother, and many friends. A memorial is planned for the near future.

Mr. Greer was a fine human being, a man to look up to and will always be remembered by those who knew and loved him. As Mona would say, "Ciao, Michael!" ▼

San Diego pot

◀ page 5

tients and advocates gathered in Sacramento to protest the federal government's stepped-up campaign against medical marijuana patients, growers, and providers in the state, and to call on state legislators to defend California's medical cannabis law, Proposition 215. Protesters came to Sacramento from throughout the state.

After a noon rally on the state

Capitol lawn, some 250 demonstrators marched to the federal courthouse a few blocks away. Twenty-nine protesters sat down to block the building's doors and were arrested; all were later released.

The protest was originally scheduled to coincide with the sentencing date for medical marijuana patient and grower Bryan Epis, who faces federal charges. However, the sentencing was delayed.

In solidarity with the Sacramento protesters, various actions and vigils took place across the

state and around the country. In the Bay Area, a large banner was hung last Friday on Treasure Island over the west-bound Bay Bridge tunnel reading "Save Medical Marijuana."

In Washington, D.C., two medical marijuana advocates chained themselves to the White House fence and were arrested. The D.C. activists were also upset that a federal appeals court last week blocked an attempt to place a medical marijuana initiative on the ballot in that city. ▼

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Aqualungs

by Jim Provenzano

The casual swimmer may think that dropping by one of San Francisco's nine public pools would be a simple matter. Pay a nominal fee. Do your laps. Dry off and feel good.

But for a team with regular practices at Hamilton Pool, just one of nine facilities facing drastic budget cuts, shortened hours, and a lack of lifeguards, "This is the worst possible time for us," said Tim Lane of the GLBT swim club San Francisco Tsunami.

"Not only are we training for Gay Games in November, but we're also hosting IGLA [the International Gay & Lesbian Aquatics meet] in 2003. We've already lost one Saturday practice, and we may lose several more practices per week."

Those were just some of the issues raised at a contentious public meeting held by the Recreation and Park Department at Golden Gate Park's County Fair Building last Thursday, September 19.

San Francisco Tsunami Co-President Steve Martel stated the team's hopes and needs.

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"This isn't just a loose association of swimmers," Martel said of the 200-member group. "We're one of the second-oldest Adult Master Swim clubs in the country. We've raised tens of thousands for the community. We bring over 40 people a night to Hamilton."

Tsunami's hours threaten to be cut from eight to four hours a week. Tsunami's water polo team already lost its practice time there.

More than 50 members of Tsunami at one point stood in solidarity as a team, many in tie-dye "Swimadelic" team T-shirts. Seventy-five swimmers are headed for Sydney, where several likely will break Adult Masters and personal records.

Amid other impassioned speeches from local swimmers, including many seniors and longtime residents, Rec and Park Superintendent Dan McKenna moderated the public forum of almost 200 people.

Frank Brock discussed the importance of the pools for the disabled and HIV-affected communities. "I enjoy swimming," he said, "but I also need it. It's not just recreation. It's a necessity. This is a community resource for the public good."

McKenna took copious notes on the public comments, and said he hopes to enact some of the suggestions.

"The junior lifeguard program should be reintroduced," McKenna suggested. "We need to meet scheduling needs efficiently."

The main problem was the depletion of reliable hours for the various citywide pools. Some criticized a statistics spreadsheet that was handed out as being inaccurate, and possibly being reduced to justify facility reductions.

"It's not about pitting one community against each other," said one senior citizen. "But I really question your figures."

With cuts in early morning and afternoon lap swims, "When are working people supposed to be able to swim?" asked a Mission father, as his small child toyed with the microphone.

Michael Frank, director of finance, having only assumed his position in May, admitted to being "relatively new," but laid out a bevy of statistics claiming that since the public facilities were not making money, and the city budget is "on hold," the proposed schedule changes would take effect. He cited a \$10.2 million shortfall, mostly from a lack of municipal funds, tourism, and the closure of golf courses as the main reasons for the funding shortage.

All equipment purchases have been put on hold. The department is still looking for certified lifeguards, and had applications on hand at the meeting. They are also developing an aquatics program manager position.

By reducing maintenance fees and hours, Frank cited a potential savings of \$1.8 million. The incorporation of \$2.3 million in available alternative funding may stem what he cited as rising costs.

Comparing a public facility to an organization that is supposed to rake in millions in profit didn't sit well with devoted swimmers.

Tsunami member Chris Hall reiterated his group's input, including financial contributions to Rec & Park through sheer numbers, yet he noted that "Hamilton Pool has cut 40 percent of its available time."



Pool's paradise: Swimmers loathe a loss of laps

After the meeting, Tsunami's Martel added that they may be able to improve limited hours through some negotiation.

Others directed their thoughts to the panel, including one senior who's been swimming for 40 years. "We are a loyal, passionate people," she said.

"We need to reorganize aquatics. It's not rocket science."

The schedule will be changed by the first week of October, after community suggestions. Public comment cards will be available at all San Francisco pools or contact: Dan McKenna, Superintendent, Southern Division, 501 Stanyan Street, San Francisco, CA 94117. Call (415) 831-2745 or fax to (415) 221-8034.

Support Team Tsunami at www.sftsunami.org or call (415) 487-6614.

DROP KICKED

Economics are also wreaking havoc with plans for future sport inclusion. The International Olympic Committee is considering dropping either Greco or freestyle wrestling from the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games.

Baseball, softball, and modern pentathlon have three months left to save their sports from being dropped. Ballroom dancing, surfing, and bowling are out, according to the Associated Press.

The IOC executive board discussed an internal report last week proposing the biggest shakeup in the sports program ever. The report proposes adding golf and rugby, but only if the sports' top athletes take part.

Golf, which was in the Olympics in 1900 and 1904, was proposed for inclusion in the Atlanta Games, but was blocked due to controversy over the exclusionary membership policy of the Augusta National Club.

The executive board will meet in late November in Mexico City. The board will then make recommendations to the full IOC session. The IOC board rejected applications of 14 sports seeking a spot in the Olympics: ballroom dancing, surfing, bowling, bridge, chess, billiards, squash, water skiing, and racquetball.

The last time a sport was removed from the Olympics was in 1936, when polo was dropped. Greco-Roman wrestling, a discipline of wrestling along with freestyle, has been in the Olympics since 1896.

The commission report also recommended exclusion of either Greco-Roman or freestyle wrestling, citing "low public and media comprehension of differences between the two disciplines."

Clue to the Olympic bureaucrats: the media only goes where you lead them. Also, in Greco, they don't roll around on the mat.

PACIFIC OVERTURES

What sports will remain, or be reinstated post-China, in 2012, when San Francisco aspires to host the Olympics?

Some gay sports leaders are

getting behind the bid, having apparently put aside grievances (or memory?) of the vulturish lawsuit waged by the U.S. Olympic Committee against Gay Games co-founder Tom Waddell up to the brink of his death.

As clearly pointed out in the B.A.R. letters column last week by reader Jerome Szymczak, "The USOC owes the sizable lesbian/gay and straight-but-not-narrow communities here an apology for its past ruthlessness."

But if San Francisco can't be counted on to keep eight public swimming pools open now, how can it host the Olympics in 2012? Why not call it what it will be, the Stanford-Palo Alto Olympics?

TEMPTATION ISLAND

Need to get a little sun, the natural way, before Folsom Street Fair? The 21st annual Lesbogay Angel Island Sports Day is this Saturday, September 28.

Join Team San Francisco and the San Francisco FrontRunners for the annual celebration of LGBT sports on Angel Island, the state park in the middle of San Francisco Bay. Bring sports equipment for running, bicycling, volleyball, softball, football, Frisbee, hiking, swimming, or any other activity of your choice.

Prefer a non-competitive sport? Join the New Games. Meet representatives from many local queer sports clubs, enjoy the elaborate potluck picnic, and spend time with old or new friends in this beautiful natural setting. It's a great opportunity to connect with other athletes who are bound for Gay Games VI in Sydney this November.

Depart from Pier 41 at Fisherman's Wharf on the Blue & Gold Fleet at 8:30 a.m. Tickets are \$10.50 round trip and it is advisable to purchase them in advance. Additional departure times are at 9:45 and 11:30 a.m. For more information, e-mail lamda23@yahoo.com.

You can purchase tickets using PayPal. Find the link and more info at www.teamsf.org/store.htm.

TAKE ME UP

A taekwondo tournament will be hosted by Triangle Taekwan Do Club on Saturday, October 5 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Eureka Valley Recreation Center at 18th and Collingwood (one block west of Castro Street). The tournament is being coordinated by Master Ken Craig (4th dan) and Grand Master Martin Marcus (8th dan).

The morning session will consist of traditional forms, creative forms, and demonstration team events. The afternoon session will consist of TMAA Olympic style sparring. Black belts and colored belts of all ranks at least 18 years of age (by October 5) are invited to participate. Registration is a flat fee of \$40 for one or more events. Spectators are welcome to attend free of charge.

The tournament is being held in October to commemorate the anniversary of the murder of Matthew Shepard in 1998; Master Ken Craig headed the formation of Triangle a month later. For more information, contact (415) 495-1888 or tdkdc@aol.com. ▼

CLASSIFIEDS

LEGAL NOTICES

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS - Solicitation No: 02-600-RFQ-029

The San Francisco Housing Authority (Authority) is soliciting Statements of Qualifications from professional firms to provide as-needed Structural Engineer Consultant Services at the Authority's developments in the City and County of San Francisco, California. The Authority intends to select a Consultant based on this Request for Qualifications (RFQ) and enter into a two-year contract, in an amount not-to-exceed \$150,000.

The Statement of Qualifications is due by 2:00 PM, on Wednesday, October 16, 2002. The RFQ document will be available online for download at Procurement@sfaa.org, on September 18, 2002, or email: Procurement@sfaa.org to request a copy by mail after that date.

SAN FRANCISCO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Free or low-cost health care, (800) 300-9950. If you or someone you know needs immunizations, check-ups, dental care, birth control, pregnancy testing, or prenatal care, call us. We are here to help women, teens, and children find free or low-cost health care. The San Francisco Department of Public Health provides referrals to clinics, doctors, and dentists in San Francisco. Our English, Spanish, Cantonese, and Mandarin speaking staff are here to take your call, Monday through Friday from 8:00am to 5:00pm WIC Program.

Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). Supplemental Nutrition Program provides nutrition education, food vouchers, and breastfeeding support for pregnant women, postpartum women, infants, and children younger than five. Vouchers are picked up at a WIC site on a monthly/bimonthly basis and may be exchanged for milk, cheese, eggs, cereal, juice, peanut butter/beans, and infant formulas in most grocery stores. All WIC services are free of charge. For more information, please call (415) 575-5788.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY - SFUSD SECURITY CHIEF (\$82,030-\$99,736 annually)

The San Francisco Unified School District is currently recruiting for the position of Security Chief to plan and direct a comprehensive program to ensure the protection, security and safety of all students, staff, and property.

Requirements: BA and six years of experience managing security, law enforcement, or other public safety personnel or an equivalent combination of experience/education. Experience in a school district or public jurisdiction is highly desirable. Opened until filled. Applicants are encouraged to immediately send or email a resume, references, and District employment application to Linda Marin, Human Resources Dept., 55 Franklin St., Second Floor, San Francisco, CA 94102, 415-355-7361; e-mail: lmarin@poet.sfsd.edu

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS (DPW) COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The DPW believes that it is important to work in partnership with the community. We respond to phone calls and letters from the public, attend community meetings, support neighborhood cleanups and much more. If you belong to a neighborhood or merchant association, we strongly encourage your group to invite us to one of your upcoming meetings. At your meeting, we can make a presentation on how we can better serve your special neighborhood concerns and distribute important information on how to reach us. If you are interested in a visit from us, please call Karen Flood Eldund at 641-2381. We look forward to hearing from you!

City and County of San Francisco

Department of Human Services

Request for Qualifications #213

Dear Potential Applicant: The City and County of San Francisco (SFDS) Department of Human Services (SFDS) announces its intent to seek proposals from qualified individuals and organizations interested in contracting to provide elderly independent living skills services and/or programs to foster youth, ages 14-15, as part of its continuum of ILS services. The contract period runs from July 1, 2003 to June 30, 2004 for an amount to be determined. An RFP packet may be picked up at SFDS, Office of Community Management, 1650 Mission Street, Suite 300, Tuesday, October 1, 2002. Office hours are from 8:30 AM to 5 PM. The RFP packet and subsequent updates may be downloaded from the City's website or after September 2, 2002. Go to

HTTP://SUNSET.CLS.FCA.US/PBIDS.NSF and click on the "Consultants and Professional Services" link. The Respondents' Conference will be held Tuesday, October 9, 2002 at 9:00 AM at 1650 Mission St., Suite 300, SF. For further information, call Karen Gendelman, at (415) 557-5162. Due date for responses is Friday, November 1, 2002 at 5:00 PM.

09/26/02

CNS: 446729

BAY AREA REPORTER

STATEMENT FILE 0260276-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Moon In Water, 733 Fillmore Street #3, San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by an individual signed Jonathan Gauntlett. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on August 20, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 08/20/2002.

AUG. 29, SEPT. 5, 12, 19, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 259470

The following person(s) are doing business as: Willin To Vend, 1550 Underwood Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94124. This business is conducted by an individual signed Willie Morris Mickle. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on July 23, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 07/23/2002.

AUG. 29, SEPT. 5, 12, 19, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 0260326-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: BP Design, 590 Silver Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by an individual signed Benjamin B. Pada. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on August 22, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 08/22/2002.

AUG. 29, SEPT. 5, 12, 19, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 259481

The following person(s) are doing business as: The Healing Leaf, 52 6th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by an individual signed Elisa M. Baker. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on July 23, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 07/23/2002.

AUG. 29, SEPT. 5, 12, 19, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 0260155-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: The Metro City Bar, 3600 16th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Richard H. Pearson, pres. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 08/15/2002.

AUG. 29, SEPT. 5, 12, 19, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 0260191-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Transgender Health Law Project, 1800 Market Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94102. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Steven B. Berlin. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on August 16, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 08/16/2002.

AUG. 29, SEPT. 5, 12, 19, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 0260219-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Monterey Barber Shop, 719 Monterey Blvd, San Francisco, Ca. 94127. This business is conducted by an individual signed Joseph J. Pasternak. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 08/19/2002.

AUG. 29, SEPT. 5, 12, 19, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 259851

The following person(s) are doing business as: John Rocker Films, Filmmaker Studios, Casting Couch Productions, 200 12th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by an individual signed John Rocker. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on August 8, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 08/08/2002.

AUG. 29, SEPT. 5, 12, 19, 2002

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNO-02-540424

In the Matter of the Application of Diane Marie Carrier For change of Name. The application of Diane Marie Carrier for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Diane Marie Carrier has filed an application proposing that her/his name be changed to Dean Walton Carrier. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 24th day of October at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

SEPT. 5, 12, 19, 26, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 0260540-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Hermetic Circle Realty, 1215 Greenwich #4A, San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by an individual signed Elliot S. Eisenberg. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 08/29/2002.

AUG. 29, SEPT. 5, 12, 19, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 0260540-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: DSKP, 808 Potrero Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual signed Paul R. Lozada. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on September 17, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/17/2002.

SEPT. 5, 12, 19, 26, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 0260550-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: NB Dick SF, Castro Cards SF, 4356-17th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed Robert Makowka and Larry G. Treize. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 08/30/2002.

SEPT. 5, 12, 19, 26, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 0260559-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Vac' N Save, 303 Second Street North Tower 5th Floor, San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Dolores Silva, VP Finance & Administration. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 08/30/2002.

SEPT. 5, 12, 19, 26, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 0260608-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: The Queen Of Tarts, 350 Funston Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94108. This business is conducted by an individual signed Eduard A. Lazo and Kukhi Lazo. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/09/2002.

SEPT. 5, 12, 19, 26, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 0260639-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Tangerine Cafe, 3499 16th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Marisa Lia Churchill. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on August 14, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 08/14/2002.

SEPT. 5, 12, 19, 26, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 0260639-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Bizzy Hair Design, 211 Sutter Street #7F, San Francisco, Ca. 94108. This business is conducted by an husband and wife signed Eduardo A. Lazo and Kukhi Lazo. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/09/2002.

SEPT. 5, 12, 19, 26, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 0260619-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Young Gay America, 4615 18th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Benjamin William Nycum. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on August 16, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/09/2002.

SEPT. 5, 12, 19, 26, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 0260619-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Bizzy Hair Design, 211 Sutter Street #7F, San Francisco, Ca. 94108. This business is conducted by an individual signed Julie A. Hobbs. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on September 6, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/06/2002.

SEPT. 5, 12, 19, 26, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 0260619-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Blue Room Leather, 1259 Folsom Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94111. This business is conducted by an individual signed Robert Heymann, president. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on November 3, 1999. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/12/2002.

SEPT. 5, 12, 19, 26, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 0260619-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: One Time, 808 Potrero Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual signed Aaron Lozada. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on September 19, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/19/2002.

SEPT. 5, 12, 19, 26, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 0260619-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Bangkok BBQ, 1375 9th Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94124. This business is conducted by an individual signed Danon Ponglorn. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/19/2002.

SEPT. 5, 12, 19, 26, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 0260619-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Prime Time Reality, 461 2nd Street #C322, San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by an individual partnership signed Pedro Tuyub, Sandy Stagg, and Charles Aymar Hack. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/19/2002.

SEPT. 5, 12, 19, 26, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 0260619-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Goldsmith Gardens, 50 Laguna Street, #505, San Francisco, Ca. 94102. This business is conducted by an individual signed John Joseph Goldsmith. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/06/2002.

SEPT. 5, 12, 19, 26, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 0260619-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Salbridge Music, 99 Lois Lane San Francisco, Ca. 94134. This business is conducted by an individual signed David Gladstein. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/20/2002.

SEPT. 5, 12, 19, 26, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 0260619-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: National Product, 1845 Market Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94102. This business is conducted by an individual signed Douglas A. Domonkos. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 08/26/2002.

SEPT. 5, 12, 19, 26, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 0260619-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: The Outbacks, 2123 Castro Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94131. This business is conducted by an individual signed Richard Alpert. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on September 1, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/20/2002.

SEPT. 5, 12, 19, 26, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 0260619-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: National Product, 1845 Market Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94102. This business is conducted by an individual signed Douglas A. Domonkos. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 08/26/2002.

SEPT. 5, 12, 19, 26, 2002

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SEPT. 5, 12, 19, 26, 2002

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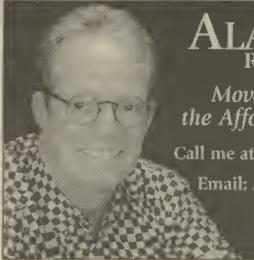
SEPT. 5, 12, 19, 26, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 0260619-00

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BAY AREA REPORTER CLASSIFIEDS

REAL ESTATE



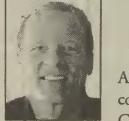
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Maxine at 415-883-1890.

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LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE 0261037-00

The following person(s) are doing business
as: National Product, 1845 Market Street,
San Francisco, Ca. 94102. This business is
conducted by an individual signed Douglas
A. Domonkos. The registrant(s) commenced
to transact business under the above listed
fictitious business name or names on N/A.
The statement was filed with the City and
County of San Francisco, Ca. on
08/26/2002.
SEPT. 26, OCT. 3, 10, 17, 2002

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR CHANGE IN OWNERSHIP OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE

To Whom It May Concern: The Name of the
Applicant(s) is: RLL Inc. The applicants listed
above are applying to the Department of
Alcoholic Beverages Control at: 185 Berry
Street, suite #5600 San Francisco, Ca.
94107, to sell alcoholic beverages at: 398
Seventh Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94103.
Type of license Applied for:
47-ON-SALE GENERAL EATING
PLACE
SEPTEMBER 26, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 0261037-00

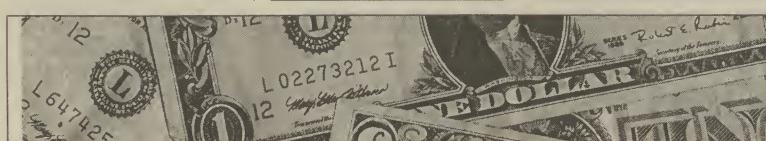
The following person(s) are doing business
as: It's All About Me Photographic
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09/20/2002.
SEPT. 26, OCT. 3, 10, 17, 2002

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO.CNC-02- 540421

In the Matter of the Application of Leila
Mozelle Marie Brown. For change of Name.
The application of Leila Mozelle Marie
Brown for change of name, having been
filed in Court, and it appearing from said
application that Leila Mozelle Marie Brown
has filed an application proposing that
his/her name be changed to Leila Mozelle
Marie Djermouli. Now therefore, it is hereby
ordered and directed, that all persons
interested in said matter do appear before
this Court in Department 218 on the 21st
day of October at 9:00am, of said day to
show cause why the application for change
of name should not be granted.
SEPT. 26, OCT. 3, 10, 17, 2002

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO.02-540402

In the Matter of the Application of Elita
Kathleen Young for change of Name.
The application of Elita Kathleen Young for
change of name, having been filed in Court,
and it appearing from said application that
Elita Kathleen Young has filed an
application proposing that his/her name be
changed to Aidan S. Robson. Now therefore,
it is hereby ordered and directed, that all
persons interested in said matter do appear
before this Court in Department 218 on the
10th day of October at 9:00am, of said day
to show cause why the application for
change of name should not be granted.
SEPT. 5, 12, 19, 26, 2002



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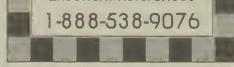
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page 45

Indian dream factory
'Queer Bollywood' shows same-sex clips at Sims Ctr.

page 36



Florence of Arabia?
T.E. Lawrence conquers the Castro Theatre screen.

page 37



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 32 • No. 39 • 26 September 2002

For François Ozon, eight is enough

Dream cast of French divas in '8 Women' by David Lamble

The last time François Ozon talked about one of his films in San Francisco, a near-riot broke out at the Roxie Cinema, where several female members of the audience took exception to a short film of his (*See the Sea*) in which a scruffy young woman backpacker terrorizes a young mother and her infant son. Ozon at the time was bemused that a slight Hitchcockian exercise could so rile an American audience. He felt that the American women were reading something into his film that he had not intended.

"There is no lesbian relationship between the women, but the American lesbians recognized and identified with the stranger girl, and they don't like the image of this woman because it's not positive," Ozon said. "But I didn't want to make a lesbian film, I just wanted to make a story about a criminal female."

Two years later, Ozon returns with *8 Women*, a film containing eight possibly criminal females and one very dead man, and this time the riot is taking place in film columns from coast to coast. While a male critic for the *New York Times* hails *8 Women* as a "decadent delight" and a "guilty pleasure," a female reviewer for the *Los Angeles Times* labels it a "sour... genre pastiche [that turns into a cinema] catfight."

The new film was originally supposed to be a remake of the George Cukor's bitchfest comedy *The Women*, based on the Clare Boothe Luce play in which an all-female cast spends 132 minutes of screentime reading each other to filth about the men in their lives, whom you never see. When Ozon discovered that the rights to *The Women* had been bought as a vehicle for Julia Roberts and Meg Ryan, he acquired permission to film an obscure '60s French play, *8 Femmes*, by Robert Thomas, a writer whose previous claim to fame was the sale of one of his plays to Hitchcock.

In shooting *The Women* in 1939, Cukor assembled a dream cast never before and never again attempted. The names still have power all these years later: Joan Crawford, Norma Shearer, Rosalind Russell, Mary Boland, Joan Fontaine, Paulette Goddard, Lucille Watson, Marjorie Main, Virginia Weidler, Phyllis Povah, Ruth Hussey, Mary

page 43 ►



Views to a bridge

Richard Misrach photographs at Berkeley Art Museum by Michael McDonagh

Most of us hunger after the sublime. We want ineffable, transcendent moments to pull us out of the stressed mundane. In an increasingly fractured time like ours, these may be even more desirable, and necessary, than ever before. Some try to reach these states through artificial means like drugs, or drugs added to a natural high, like sex. But the patient, focused act of just looking, of being totally, completely present, can often speak volumes, and its yield often surpasses the expected. Who hasn't been startled by a face or a sudden close-up of hands?

Richard Misrach's current show of photographs, taken from his Berkeley Hills

home, as well as pictures of street people he took in the '70s, take the pure, unadulterated road, or perhaps I should say unprocessed, documentary approach. His *Berkeley Work*, which continues at Berkeley Art Museum until October 13, seems to come out of an almost '60s aesthetic of leaving things alone and just looking. They're also elegant, refined, and thoroughly art-conscious.

Known for his spare yet dramatic portraits of deserts (several of these grace the Nonesuch recording of Philip Glass' groundbreaking film score *Koyaanisqatsi*), Misrach has turned his attention here to the views he sees from his house, and the play of light and

page 38 ►

OUT THERE

"Jabir's music soars and the cast nails it to the wall!" - SF Examiner

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by Roberto Friedman
and Title-Holder Sashash

We're glad to note that last week marked the beginning of what will be the first thorough cleaning for Michelangelo's great sculpture of David since 1873. Mainstream news coverage has offered nifty footage of workmen gingerly washing David's wrists and elbows, but of course there are no photos on the wire of the hygiene crew attending to his all-important netherregions.



Wash behind those ears, David!

Scrubbers were hard at work last week in Florence, and they'll go on attending to Our Davey for six months. Out There would like to use the occasion to encourage more Italian men to consider bathing regularly, except we think we'd get into trouble with the pro-purgency crowd, and on Leather Week yet! To our pals in Palermo and the Italian Anti-Defamation League: Only Kid N, irony ain't dead.

We've been petulant all week from the inescapable heat. Our office doubles as a toaster-oven, and wherever we went last week, global warming followed us. At the 20th San Francisco Jazz Fest press feed at Enrico's, the lunchables and music stayed hot.

Nice and timely, a recent article in the *Times*' Arts & Leisure section considered homosexuality in today's jazz world, suggesting that its unofficial policy is, "Don't ask, don't tell?" Most of the



Courtesy of Macy's Passport 2002

Artist's conception of scenic overlook at National AIDS Memorial Grove.

gay jazz musicians profiled in the piece, like pianists Andy Bey and Fred Hersch and vibraphonist Gary Burton, are recognized for their outsize talents and their gay lives by Bay Area jazz audiences. Our lesbian Patricia Barber brings her quartet to the Palace of Fine Arts in the upcoming SFJazz season, and if any other musical greats want to come out and join the party, they here have a forum.

Taylor made

At the 20th annual Macy's Passport events last week just South of the Equator (Fort Mason), we learned that a portion of the proceeds is helping construct a scenic overlook above the National AIDS Memorial Grove in Golden Gate Park.

No less than the Queen Mother Herself, Dame Elizabeth Taylor, will supposedly be there to dedicate the overlook on World AIDS Day, Sunday, December 1, 2002. Presumably the Dame will bless the vista in some way; perhaps she'll break a bottle of Cristal in honor of the dear departed but still discerning. The Grove was the site of a moving dance ritual this past Sept. 11, reportedly well-attended and good-vibed. Now it will have a street-level presence on Middle Drive.

The Passport parties, legendary fundraisers spread out

over three days, always help prove that fashion and compassion do more than just rhyme. Party attractions included a photo booth in which you could get your mug on a computer-generated cover of the *SF Comical*, which we can't help but feel would be an improvement over daily production practices.

Wring around Rosie

That was an ugly unfolding of *Rosie* magazine's folding last week, sure to be followed by suits and countersuits. Publishing partners Gruner & Jahr sounded like spurned lovers complaining that the Rosie O'Donnell they got into bed with was not the Rosie O'

Donnell they woke up to. According to the account in the *Times* business section, G&J thought they'd signed "talk show host who had a huge following of Middle Americans who saw themselves in the sweet-as-pie television figure who had a visible crush on Tom Cruise [no comment]. In less than a year, she had quit her talk show, announced she was a lesbian, and said she was tired of acting nice all the time." We'll sing in that choir!



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page 33 ►

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THEATRE

Undress for success

'The Full Monty' at the Orpheum Theatre

by Richard Dodds

In real estate, it's location, location, location. In the arts, it's often expectation, expectation, expectation.

Take the case of *The Full Monty*, now at the Orpheum in a touring production. I got to see the musical in New York, and was sort of amused and sort of disappointed because it didn't match the hype, a *mea culpa* part of my theatergoing. Heading to the Orpheum with lowered expectations, it was much easier to hook into the musical's goodtime energies. Same show, different reaction. And what a subjective business this really is.

"Same show," but we know that not all touring editions are created equal. The traveling *Full Monty* is better than most at generating Broadway-caliber energies. Indeed, the cast features several performers with notable Broadway credits, including Cleavant Derricks (a Tony winner for *Dreamgirls*), Robert Westenberg (prominent in *Into the Woods* and *The Secret Garden*), and Carol Woods (the recent Broadway revivals of *One Mo' Time* and *Follies*).

The increasing distance between the musical and the British movie from which it was adapted can be another reason for improving reactions. With the film fresher in mind, Terrence McNally's Americanized adaptation seemed broad and obvious, and nowhere more than in a gay subplot that had evolved from sweet to mawkish. David Yazbek's score may be crudely melodic and lyrically simplistic, but it works in the moment in the musical's world — which lies within the city limits of Buffalo, NY.

You probably know that the story is about a bunch of laid-off lugs who relocate their self-esteem and make a fistful of dollars by emulating the Chippendales. Their leader is a divorced father, behind in his child-support payments, who has recruited this merry band of novice strippers for a one-night-only performance of supposedly "real men" ecstasies.

There is one area in which the musical does outdo the movie. Watching, live, a group of performers who don't look like dancers work their way from impossible klutzies to one-night superstars is more effective because it is unequivocally unedited. Choreographer Jerry Mitchell's unfriendly steps maintain the illu-

Laid-off lugs make like the Chippendales in the touring *Full Monty* in SF.

sion of this transformation while still cranking up the necessary chorus-line excitement.

The big payoff for the guys' fictional audience, which turns out to include their wives, ministers, and mothers, is that moment when they go full monty — when they shed their little posing pouches. It's a tease for real-life audiences as well, because of an expertly timed flash of light a split-second after takeoff time. On Broadway, you could catch a glimpse before being temporarily blinded. Not so at the Orpheum, where the flash comes a split-second earlier, perhaps in deference to the more tender sensibilities of the really regional audiences.

But certainly not San Francisco. Don't let this one shortcoming keep you away from the fun of *The Full Monty*. There are no guarantees in this business, but it's a safe bet you'll be happier at 10:30 p.m. than you were at 8 p.m. ▼

The Full Monty runs at the Orpheum through Oct. 13. Tickets \$41-\$81. Call 512-7770.

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Mummy Mask of Satdjehuty, detail.
New Kingdom, early Eighteenth
Dynasty (ca. 1500 B.C.)
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This exhibition is organized by the American Federation of Arts and The British Museum.

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Honeymooner

Tim Miller at New Conservatory Center

by Richard Dodds

Tim Miller has been telling tales on himself for 20 years, and still he hasn't run out of stories. While his latest solo venture, *Body Blows*, recycles some of his previous personal/universal riffs on growing up gay in America, it is capped with a wonderful new piece of material that couldn't be imagined if it wasn't true.

For those who have been following Miller's saga through his evocative stand-up musings, you know that he was one of the "NEA Four" who were struck down by the Supreme Court, and that he has a lover named Alistair McCartney whose student visa is running out. Miller has made it quite clear that he'd rather give up America than Alistair.

The coda to the excerpted scenes from *My Queer Body, Naked Breath*, is a section that recalls Miller and McCartney's recent pilgrimage to Niagara Falls. They are there to rub their own noses in the heterosexual marital privileges represented by the honeymoon capital. "I am stuck in an abusive relationship with the United States," he says.

The ironies and metaphors pile up as they stand on the Rainbow (!) Bridge connecting the US, which doesn't recognize their eight-year relationship, and Canada, one of every other Western country that has passed laws that

accommodate gay relationships. Miller doesn't need to add much of his verbal filigree to capture the symbolism of a tug-of-war on the bridge between policemen from the two countries. A bagpipe orchestra adds a final note of surrealism.

Perhaps because this is the 70-minute show's only new material, and because it directly relates to Miller's current affairs, Miller performs it with a spark even brighter than his vigorous delivery of tales ranging from his first boy-date in Orange County to a brief sex-charged carpentry career

in Manhattan.

Miller's brand of performance requires considerable self-absorption, a sense that the universe is putting on a show in which he can be the observant star. But the success of Miller's approach is his ability to pull us into his universe, where, even if the details are different, we can recognize our own instincts, urges, and emotions. ▼

Body Blows will run at the New Conservatory Theatre Center through Sept. 29. Tickets are \$15-\$25. Call 861-8972.



Solo performer Tim Miller thinks out of the box in *Body Blows*.

Omaha to Broadway

Julie Wilson charms at the Plush Room

by Robert Julian

At the age of 77, Julie Wilson now has few peers who still perform as cabaret vocalists; only Barbara Cook and Blossom Dearie come to mind. And on opening night at the Plush Room, Wilson greeted an audience of friends and admirers who understand this may be their last chance to see her in San Francisco. The last time I saw her perform here was in 1987, and she betrays no

signs of aging. Julie Wilson remains the same charming, elegant, enthusiastic performer she has always been.

Wilson's current show opens with Dorothy Fields' "On the Sunny Side of the Street," and continues with a tribute to composers from the first half of the 20th century. Exceptions to this rule are two selections written by Amanda McBroom ("Reynosa" and "Dreaming") and Stephen Sondheim's "I Never Do Anything Twice."

Throughout the evening she is supported by her pianist, Mark Hummel, who also provides able vocal assistance to Wilson on duets.

No singer has the same voice at 77 that she had at 27, and Wilson's instrument and presentation have aged in the typical fashion. Her pitch and phrasing now recall the deep, throaty delivery of Alberta Hunter, who toured America one last time in the 1980s, when she was 84. But Hunter's métier was bluesy R&B vocals, and Wilson delivers popular standards with a sleek, refined style that Hunter never attempted. Wilson brings wonderful energy to the stage, displaying the sort of cock-eyed optimism that is infectious. She's still a girl from Omaha who happened to end up on Broadway, and when she forgets a lyric or loses her place



Wilson, just a cock-eyed optimist.

in a song, only a misanthrope could remain unforgiving. ▼

Julie Wilson continues at the Plush Room, 940 Sutter St., through Sept. 29.

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MUSIC

Trailblazing at Davies

SF Symphony is off to a strong start

by Philip Campbell

The first month of the new San Francisco Symphony season culminates this week with performances of the Mahler Third. The latest installment in the ambitious "Live" recording project, of all nine in the mighty canon, it's the kind of "event" concert that has made Music Director Michael Tilson Thomas both a local draw and an international star.

That is not to say that earlier concerts in September have not been satisfying. Actually, they have been very much to this listener's taste and equally characteristic of MTT's unerring sense of musical architecture. The blend of old favorites with newer, less frequently performed pieces makes good musical sense, and there's always a feeling of compatibility.

Last week brought a perfect example of good programming logic. Three highly agreeable performances of innovative works all contrasted to brilliant effect. Of course, Beethoven's Third Symphony *Eroica* is hardly as startling today as it must have been to audiences in 1805. Still, it was considered a "higher plateau" and even "bizarre" at the time.

More than a century later, Aaron Copland's Symphony for Organ and Orchestra prompted Walter Damrosch, the conductor of the premiere, to make a semi-serious disclaimer to the astonished crowd. "If a gifted young man can write a symphony like

quickly displays all of the beloved West Coast composer's Pacific Rim influences. The gamelan-tinged orchestration for percussion, and the alternating use of strings as rich carpeting and piquant chamber soloists, delight the ear and bring a smile. The 85-year-old writer may live in Aptos, but he is a citizen of the world.



Violinist Joshua Bell

David Higgs was soloist in the Organ Symphony, making us wish the great Ruffatti of Davies Hall were put to use more frequently. His playing made the piece seem almost a concerto. The orchestra's response to their conductor confirmed Copland's symphonic intentions. It still sounds contemporary after 77 years, but scarcely life-threatening.

The *Eroica* received a note-per-

sound this pretty, but it proved MTT is demanding and getting unanimity from his players.



Organist David Higgs

The previous week brought violinist Joshua Bell back to Davies after his solo appearance with the SF at Yerba Buena Gardens in a free concert commemorating September 11.

Bell is a happy phenomenon — gifted, handsome and charismatic. He also is maturing well, and the promise of his early career is proving to be no mere stroke of luck. The Violin Concerto by Samuel Barber seems custom-made for his gratifying mixture of poetry and strength. I have heard rougher versions that damped down some of the sentimentality, but Bell managed to balance lyricism with pyrotechnics, and the results were brilliant.

That evening began with Stravinsky's *Le Chant du rossignol*, supposedly as shocking in its day as the same composer's more famous *Rite of Spring*. It certainly managed to upset some rather vocal Symphony subscribers recently. How delighted Stravinsky would be to know that his music could still shake 'em up after all these years.

The conservative listeners were later soothed by the generous tunefulness of the Barber Concerto and, after Carl Ruggles' short but difficult *Evocations*, Tchaikovsky's Serenade for Strings.

Early in October, MTT will premiere his own concerto for contrabassoon, *Urban Legend*. To continue the practice of giving the patrons their money's worth (and something for everyone), the concert will include *Ein Heldenleben* by Richard Strauss. ▶

Neither Beethoven nor Copland ever killed a soul, but they did boldly blaze new trails in music, and hearing these seminal works side by side was illuminating.

this at 23, within five years he will be ready to commit murder."

Neither Beethoven nor Copland ever killed a soul, but they did boldly blaze new trails in music, and hearing these seminal works side by side was illuminating. Tilson Thomas has plenty of experience with both composers, and it showed in confident and sometimes thrilling performances.

The concert opened with Lou Harrison's brief but enchanting *Parade*. Commissioned for MTT's first season in San Francisco and considered a "fanfare," the piece

feet and warmly attractive reading that, nevertheless, was only fitfully moving. Tilson Thomas was an early advocate of "authentic" Beethoven performance, recording all nine symphonies with a chamber-sized orchestra, albeit with modern instruments. He seems less concerned now with authenticity than with coaxing sweet tone and disciplined response.

The horns played better than anyone could have expected, and the string section displayed a lovely bloom. I doubt the composer ever thought his break-out score would

closet about is being a Fed agent! Blinded by homophobia, is he?

Fall marketing

Have you seen the spiffy new TV ad for Saudi Arabia? Under heartwarming music, every modern president after **FDR** is pictured as all buddy-buddy with the Saudi royals except one: **Bill Clinton**. Hey, the way beginning to look a whole lot like a commercial for the GOP fall campaign.

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Out There

◀ page 30

in suburbia.

Somehow this concept of splitting rang a bell, and we could just hear Dr. Gabbard asking us, "Why do you always refer to yourself in the plural? Do you think you're **Queen Elizabeth**?"

But we don't use the royal we, only the editorial we. Splitting is a good way to remember that you're reading not just us, but us plus **Sammy Source** in an undisclosed location.

Back to *The Sopranos*, and we don't mean **Caballe** and **Callas**: We think it's hilarious that made-man **Christopher** thinks his fiancée **Adriana**'s new gal-pal is a dyke, when what she's really in the

Kingsley for asking probing questions. There are rules. "Never, for instance, ask **Arnold Schwarzenegger** if his father was a Nazi; don't quiz **Eddie Murphy** about the night the police stopped him for picking up a transsexual hooker on Santa Monica Boulevard," etc.

Once crossed, the power flacks play hardball, such as when they blacklisted *Esquire* writer **Tom Junod** for outing actor **Kevin Spacey**, or denied access to magazine writer **Lynn Hirschberg** "because she hinted, in a piece for *Vanity Fair*, that **Courtney Love** might have used drugs during her pregnancy." Nice to see these high-profile p.r.-meisters' naked ambition and grotesque toadying to Ho'wood's pampered stars exposed. ▶

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Messin' with Messiaen

Composer mined rich vein of inspiration

by Tim Pfaff

When I moved to Asia nearly three years ago, friends predicted I wouldn't be able to stand the lack of any concert life. But it turned out that 25 years of seven-plus concerts a week had been enough, and I've hardly given concerts a thought. If I could have chosen one to attend over the last three years, it would have been MTT's Mahler 6 with the Symphony last year — and I got to hear it, on the way home from my father's funeral and, a week after his death, 9/11.

The one thing I thought might pull me back again was the new Messiaen *St. Francis* at the Opera. It's the one piece of music I'd like to "be in the room with" before I die — and I always thought it belonged in, of all cities, San Francisco. I was grateful that Lotfi Mansouri kept his mitts off the piece. But regime change at the War Memorial sounded promising. So I thought and thought about it, especially given the fact that, had I attended the North American premiere, I could also have heard MTT's Mahler 3 — the first Mahler symphony I ever heard, this time performed by one of my favorite Mahlerians — in the debut. Then W. Inc. started beating the war drums, and I thought, Nah.

symphonies by my number-one favorite living Mahlerian, Claudio Abbado, the Third and the Ninth. I forgot to mention, the one time I did have an "I wish I had been there" experience was, while I was still living in Lao, reading about MTT's putatively shattering Mahler 9 a couple of years back. The one I heard him conduct at the Mahler Festival the summer before I decamped was good enough for me. Still. At this moment, I hardly feel cheated.

The *La Transfiguration* continues my personal favorite "cycle in progress" of the major Messiaen big-orchestra pieces, by Myung-Whun Chung, this time with the Orchestre Philharmonique et Choeur de Radio France. The work, whose premiere came in 1969, predates *St. Francis* by a decade. It is no less inspired a work, which isn't saying much, since Messiaen mined one of the richest veins of sustained inspiration of any composer in history. (Blame it on God.) The hits kept on coming, and at an almost unprecedented consistency of musical quality. But there was always a sense, with any new Messiaen piece, that the composer was "just" transcribing transmissions from the beyond. Like the other pieces of its type, *La Transfiguration*, while composed for enormous musical forces, mostly sounds like the most intimate of chamber works, as it sonorously evokes one of the most mysterious passages in the Gospels in Messiaen's characteristically mystical ways. One listens in awe at the composer's own awe.

This performance is one of sustained rapture and, well, transfiguring. What I've always loved about Myung-Whun Chung's Messiaen is the early ideal balance he strikes between the music's evanescent beauties and the almost Stravinskian primitivism that crashes in upon it like ... well, whatever you think it's like. The cry of the Divine seems a likely explanation to me.

Since so much of the music is also vocal and choral, a better companion piece for *St. Francis* is

London on October 11, 1999) is the finest recording of this symphony in my experience. The cliché about the piece is that it is, besides adventurous and gorgeous, long, unwieldy, undisciplined and lax in construction. It can seem all of those things in lesser interpretations. But Abbado and the Berlin Philharmonic approach the piece with such command of its disparate elements that nothing seems superfluous or even overlong. I've heard performances (like the first Bernstein, the beginning of my lifelong love affair with Mahler) where the cadence to the final movement felt longer than some complete Haydn symphonies. While this one doesn't break any speed records, it all seems to be going somewhere — as opposed to trying to go somewhere but not yet knowing quite how — and indeed, the whole symphony unfurls in one long, ineluctable arc.

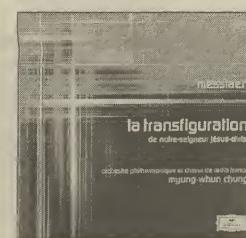


It's a little late in the critical day to be saying that I heard things in this recording I've never heard in the symphony before, but it's the plain truth, and the first listening was an utter revelation. The several subsequent ones have only revealed "more where that came from." The solo mezzo-soprano "Urlicht" movement, superbly sung by Anna Larsson, features one of those effects one hears only in the rarest of performances. You simply can't tell exactly when the sound emerges out of the silence from which it comes, or precisely when its final fade ends. The timing of this release should put even MTT on his toes.

I'll just say two words about the live Ninth: get it. It's everything I've ever wanted in a Ninth, and I'd be happy to throw all my other recordings, except maybe the Boulez, away. This is music-making at its most towering and moving. 'Nuff said. ▼



Olivier Messiaen's works communicate awe of the Divine.



The Yellow Label to the rescue. As if I had ordered a consolation prize, Deutsche Grammophon issued, at nearly the same time here in Bangkok, an important new recording of Messiaen's monumental *La Transfiguration de Notre-Seigneur Jesus-Christ* and two live performances of Mahler

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Renée Fleming returns to her roots

by Jason Serinus

Renée Fleming: Bel Canto Orchestra of St. Luke's, Patrick Summers cond. (Decca)

If any recital could establish soprano Renée Fleming as substantially more than a gorgeous woman with a beautiful voice handicapped by a lack of interpretive insight, this generous disc of well-loved and lesser-known bel canto scenes by Bellini, Donizetti and Rossini will do the trick. Playing it through, it's clear that Fleming possesses the vocal and emotional range, flexibility, and timbre required to give voice to the high-flying femmes who dominate the early 19th-century Italian repertoire.

In singing bel canto, Fleming returns to her roots. The soprano made her professional debut in 1986, not in a lyric role such as the Countess in Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro*, but as the coloratura Konstanze in Salzburg's Landestheater production of Mozart's *Die Entführung aus dem Serail*. Though many lyric soprano debuts followed, bel canto performances continued through Autumn 2002 Paris and Metropolitan Opera appearances in Bellini's *Il pirata*.

Fleming offers far more than merely beautiful singing. A case in point is the final sleepwalking scene and uncharacteristically happy conclusion to Vincenzo Bellini's *La sonnambula*. The voice, tinged with pathos, immediately impresses with the gravity of Amina's sorrowful plight. The entire grab-bag of coloratura technique, including grace notes, roulades, trills, and endless variations, seems at the soprano's disposal. As Amina awakens from sleep to find herself surrounded by villagers and fiancé rejoicing in her innocence, her vocal color convincingly shifts from pathos to joy.

The challenger

Are comparisons to recorded performances of the greatest coloraturas of the last 50 years and beyond in order? Fleming throws down the gauntlet by writing in her liner notes, "When Callas, Sutherland, Caballé and Sills began reviving these [bel canto] operas, they were extensively cut,



The entire spectrum of coloratura technique is at Fleming's disposal.

damaging continuity and undermining the larger musical conception. Work on original material has shed much light on how individual vocal lines should be ornamented. On this recording, the performance practice was deeply influenced by the pioneering work of Dr. Philip Gossett, who composed much of the ornamentation of the vocal line.

"The highly ornamented version of the caballetta ("Ah! Non giunge" from *La sonnambula*) which is printed in most current editions was actually added to the score by an unknown hand. The original manuscript demonstrates that Bellini wrote a much less florid melody, which should only be ornamented when repeated."

Sounds great. But what do we actually hear? First, a version of the lyrical "Ah! non credea mirarti" so sweetened with high-lying ornaments that the fundamental pathos of Amina's predicament is undermined; then, a caballetta that, if initially faithful to Bellini's writing, nonetheless lacks the sheer brilliance of Sutherland or the weight of Callas. In fact, as one compares performances by these singers and the others Fleming mentions, one senses that gay conductor Patrick Summers intentionally holds back in the orchestral climaxes because Fleming's voice cannot emit blazing final notes capable of cutting through instruments going full blast.

When we turn to "D'amor al dolce impero" from Rossini's *Armida*, we discover truly revelatory singing. Caballé recorded this tour de force on her early Rossini

Rarities disc, while Callas left live documents of her '52 Florence May Festival and '54 San Remo performances. Both older sopranos sing with unmatched force and forward momentum. But the sorceress Armida begins singing, "Nature always submits to the gentle commands of love," not to knock our socks off, but rather to enchant Rinaldo into exchanging his weapons for the garlands of love. Here, Fleming succeeds. Only in her voice do we find flirtation, charm, and smiling tone. She does at one point sound a bit more like Blanche DuBois than Armida, but hers is a performance to listen to again and again.

As for the other scenes on the disc, Fleming's "Bel raggio lusingher Dolce pensiero" from Rossini's *Semiramide* cannot approach the brilliance of either Sutherland or Callas, but it's an absolute success in its own right. The final scene from Bellini's *Il pirata*, a Callas specialty, lacks the authority La Divina brought to this music, but is sung with far more freedom and ornamentation than Callas could offer later in her career. The final scene from Donizetti's *Lucezia Borgia*, the very music in which Caballé made her unscheduled 1965 American debut, is not of the showstopper variety, but nonetheless impresses.

As for the joyful scene from Donizetti's *Maria Padilla*, Fleming's vocalism is so lovely and brimming with health that all one can do is be thankful for her many gifts, and hope for the opportunity to hear her perform the music live. ▼

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Cinematically gay in Bombay

'Queer Bollywood' clips show at the Jon Sims Center for the Arts

by Sandip Roy

It's the biggest film industry in the world. The candy-floss romances and social melodramas churned out by India's dream factories seem to have something for everyone — action, family strife, long-lost brothers, and lovers uniting, separating and reuniting, all to a stirring soundtrack. Something for everyone — except, it seems, the queer ones. Storylines are resolutely heterosexual — or are they? "The point about Bollywood [as the Bombay film industry is nicknamed] is that it's so ripe for queer readings," says Gayatri Gopinath, an Assistant Professor of Women and Gender Studies at UC Davis. Gopinath presents *Queer Bollywood*, a show of clips with Javid Syed, an Indian immigrant and queer activist, on Sat., Sept. 28, at the Jon Sims Center for the Arts.

Gopinath and Syed have waded through countless Hindi films and learned to look beyond the heterosexual song-and-dance sequences to find where queer boys and girls might see a little bit of themselves reflected. For example, in the costume drama *Razia Sultan*, about a 13th-century Muslim empress, the princess and her lady-in-waiting go on a girls' night out on the river, and is that a girl-on-girl kiss behind a great white fan? Or in the superhit outlaw film *Sholay*, macho superstars Amitabh Bachchan and Dharmendra sing to each other, "I will never desert our friendship. Even if my breath leaves me, I cannot desert your companionship."

Such protestations of undying friendship sound pretty campy to Western audiences. But in India, male buddy films are very popular, and easy physical intimacy between men doesn't necessarily raise any eyebrows. It's a segregat-



If you look beyond the heterosexual song-and-dance sequences, Bollywood is ripe for a queer reading.

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ed society, and that gives filmmakers plenty of same-sex playgrounds, such as a women's prison in *Anjaan*, or, in the art film *Mandi*, a brothel.

Separation of sexes also means women get to play-act as men, and vice versa. In the blockbuster *Hum Apke Hain Koun*, Madhuri Dixit dances for a brief moment with a cute butch dressed as the male hero. In *Mera Naam*, Joker Padmini cuts her hair and takes to the road dressed as a boy. In *Baazi*, prettyboy hero Aamir Khan gets to wear wig, high heels and maxi dress to entrap the villain.

But none of this made anyone gay — it was all fun and games and pretense. *Fire* changed all that. The Deepa Mehta film about middle-class married women in Delhi falling in love with each other broke open the celluloid closet. "Homosociality is now seen as suspect rather than innocent," explains Gopinath. Men are not quite so ready to hold hands and swear undying love. On the other hand, more explicitly gay characters are popping up. In *Bombay Boys*, an indie film, three Indians from the West going to search for their roots encounter a bona fide Indian gay man played by Roshan Seth. The upcoming

Mango Soufflé is all about gay men in urban India balancing love, sex and family duties. Even the crossover hit *Monsoon Wedding* has its own gay character. But the post-*Fire* representations are quite limited, argues Gopinath, "in how they subscribe to a model of gay, urban cosmopolitanism."

Queer Bollywood tries to look at all the representations that got left out in the process. It journeys back to a world where gayness had to be read into casually dropped clues — the arch of an eyebrow, the lyrics of a song, a man in a sari. It's a world of eunuchs, sissy boys and butch women in uniforms. Whether the director meant any gay subtext is beside the point. The point, says Gopinath and Syed, is what the viewer makes of the images. ▼

Queer Bollywood: Alternative Sexualities in Popular Indian Cinema, Sept. 28, 8 p.m., at Jon Sims Center for the Arts, 1519 Mission St. Tickets (\$7-\$12): (415) 554-0402.



In *Sholay*, the two male leads sing tenderly to each other, and bond.

FILM



T.E. Lawrence (Peter O'Toole) and Sheik Ali ibn el Kharish (Omar Sharif) face the dangers of the desert.

Desert storm revisited

Lawrence of Arabia rides across the Castro

by Tavo Amador

Who was Lawrence of Arabia? David Lean's celebrated 1962 epic film of that name doesn't tell us, but, with a restuck print and new digital sound, it plays the Castro Theatre September 27-October 3. Despite the unanswered question, it's worth seeing.

T. E. Lawrence (1888-1935) was an Oxford-educated illegitimate son of well-to-do parents. During World War I, he was an officer stationed in Egypt. Lean's film begins with Lawrence (Peter O'Toole) racing his motorcycle along the English countryside, then switches to a memorial service following his burial. These scenes are intended to establish his recklessness and controversial reputation.

The rest of the movie is chronological. While in Cairo, Lawrence impresses a wily British diplomat (Claude Rains), who persuades the skeptical commander (a blustery Donald Wolfit) to send him across the Arabian Desert to find Prince Feisal (Alec Guinness). He succeeds, then undertakes an unauthorized mission of liberating the Arab tribes from the Turkish Empire. (During World War I, Turkey allied herself with Germany.) Showing considerable military ingenuity, he convinces several tribal chieftains, including two played by Omar Sharif and Anthony Quinn, to attack the fortified port city of Aqaba from the desert, considered impossible. All the Turkish artillery there faces the Arabian Sea and cannot be turned around, he argues. Reluctantly, the Arabs agree.

The trek across the desert is brutal, but Lawrence's daring is rewarded with victory. Emboldened, he returns to Cairo to meet the British Commander, General Allenby (Jack Hawkins), who agrees to provide more support for guerrilla warfare against the Turks by Lawrence and the Bedouins. But Lawrence's hopes for a united Arab state following the end of the war collide with what the French and British foreign offices have planned — they have already agreed on how to divide the Ottoman Empire.

The film looks gorgeous. Shot

in Jordan and Morocco, Frederick A. Young's cinematography captures the desert's terrifying majesty and vast beauty. Maurice Jarre's score is also epic, if not subtle. The script is simplistic, ignoring, among other things, the scholarly debate about Lawrence's sexuality that has raged for decades.

Disrobing in Damascus

In his 1926 book, *The Seven Pillars of Wisdom*, Lawrence discussed homosexual rape. Some writers claim it was his own fantasy, while others insist it relates to his actual experience while imprisoned by the Turks. The film skirts the issue. Lawrence (for unclear reasons) allows himself to be captured in Damascus. The Turkish Bey (Jose Ferrer) finds his face "interesting," removes his robe, and admires his white skin. The gesture is forcefully rebuffed, and Ferrer orders him to be whipped, while he undresses and watches from his sleeping quarters. (In real life, Lawrence was understandably traumatized by the rape, and it affected his subsequent behavior. The movie attributes that change to the beating.)

In his star-making role, O'Toole, who got the part after Marlon Brando and Albert Finney rejected it, is a handsome Lawrence, especially when donning the white robes given to him by the smitten Sharif, who is dressed in black — they look like a bride and groom. Within the limits of the staid script, he brings color to the part and suggests an idealistic yet vain and arrogant man. Sharif, too, became famous for his doe-eyed, aristocratic Ali, and shows more passion than he would in later roles.

Quinn, Hollywood's all-purpose interpreter of ethnic roles, wears a false nose and livens things up with his shouting. Rains is fine, although a bit restrained. Arthur Kennedy is terrific as a cynical American photojournalist out to create the Lawrence legend, and Ferrer is menacing as the sexually intrigued Bey. But the best performances are by Hawkins as the pragmatic Allenby, and Guinness, who plays Feisal (founder of the modern Saudi Arabian kingdom) as effete, erudite, and deadly as a cobra.

At nearly four hours (includ-

ing intermission), this is a lot of desert, but Lawrence was a smash, winning seven Oscars, including Best Picture, Director, Screenplay (credit in 1962 was denied to the blacklisted Wilson, but is now restored), Cinematography, and Music. Anyone who wants to see what Hollywood epics were like before the digital revolution should find Lawrence fascinating. ▼

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Spank her! 'Secretary' abuse at the multiplex

by Brandon Judell

When does placing a boiling teapot on your legs or cutting yourself with various sharp objects not imply insanity?

Most of us couldn't think of an occasion. Then there are those fans of S&M expert Pat Califia, who would probably argue that sitting bare-assed on a red-hot radiator is foreplay.

Based upon a short story by the often overrated literary darling Mary Gaitskill and directed by the astute Steven Shainberg, *Secretary* is a deliciously perverse tale. Its heroine, Lee Holloway (Maggie Gyllenhaal), begins her tale with the admission: "I got out of the institution on my sister's wedding day."

Now back home, she discovers her dad (Stephen McHattie) is still an alcoholic, and her overbearing mother (Lesley Ann Warren) has locked all the knives away. Poor Mom! She overlooked the razor-blade set that Lee's kept hidden under her bedroom mattress.

Once settled among her loved ones, Lee falls back into making little slits on her flesh, until she gets a job as a secretary.

As fate would deign, her boss, Mr. Grey (James Spader), seems to have a sadistic streak that causes Lee to fall in love with him immediately and give up self-mutilation.

Soon she's making typing errors so her boss will spank her. Spanking leads to further punishments, and eventually a blissful Lee is carrying out her duties with her hands chained to a pole attached to a neck brace.

While not overtly lesbian or gay, *Secretary* will thrill those of you with the penchant for a little discipline. And it does explain the



Maggie Gyllenhaal crawls for mean old James Spader in *Secretary*.

joys of such an arrangement for the rest of you who find vanilla sex adequate.

Thankfully, Ms. Gyllenhaal, as talented as her brother Jake, is up to the demands of the role. Instead of applauding her, she makes you want to run to the hall

closet and get down the cat-o'-nine-tails. "Take that, you fine actress. Take that!" What better response could a performance elicit? ▼

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"7-20-99, 5:23 PM," by Richard Misrach, shows at Berkeley Art Mus'm.

Misrach

◀ Arts cover

shade on that Bay Area (and dare I say world) icon, the Golden Gate. Indeed, his obsessive focus on it has been compared to Cezanne's with Mt. San Vicente, or Monet's with his haystacks, the gardens at Giverny, or the facade of Rouen Cathedral. And though all that is perfectly true, Misrach is a *photographer* and not an independent maker of things, like a painter. The studied seriality of his images also reflects that of the photograph-influenced work of figures as disparate as Warhol, Alex Katz, and Gerhard Richter, which put him squarely in the line of contemporary art practice. Like any good artist, Misrach chooses what to show and what to ignore. He crops the Berkeley Marina and anything else that inhibits his view to the horizon, and the magnitude given the sky dwarfs all the other visual information.

Take, for instance, "12-15-99 5:14 PM," where an almost unnatural yellow-citron saturates the

clouds above the bridge, or an even more wintry-looking "3-19-99 11:14 PM," with its cold slate blue like a harbinger of rain. Even more startling is "3-3-98 6:30 PM," with its lush wash of burnt red leading to black, with bits of spotty detail like surrealist things in an Yves Tanguy painting; or the violet-magenta sky over a silver, milky bay in "3-20-00 4:05-5:00 AM," which covers a far longer duration than most of the pictures in the show.

The sudden snaps are just as effective and moving as the longer exposures, perhaps because of their poignancy. What we see is fleeting, and we'll never see it again. It's like the jolt we get from a lover's face, or a sudden look from them, open, free, and totally unforced. Misrach's colors are as straightforward as these moments from one's life. Truth to appearances is what gives his pictures such power and poetic pull. His show is an eye-opener, and a meditation, too. ▼

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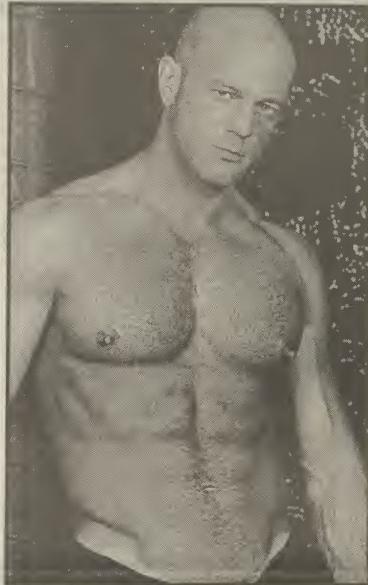
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PORN

Packing a punch

Raging Stallion's 'Fistpack One'

by John F. Karr

It's one of those cosmic laws, I guess. No sooner had I turned in the list of Excessive Porn that I was asked to compile for the Folsom Street Fair program — fetish video that was the first, best-known, or best in its genre — than I got the one that should have been at the top of the list. Raging Stallion's brand-new *Fistpack One*, *Chris Ward's Extreme Penetration* is simply The Best Fisting Movie I've Seen. No previous fisting film has scored so perfectly in its three important aspects: performer's talent, director's vision, and the artisan's craft with which it's all delivered.

Sex isn't a ping pong game, although most videos make it look like one, and fisting, especially, should not be a rushed event. It certainly isn't, in *Fistpack's* long scenes. The first two average a half-hour each, and the finale is over an hour, so we see the action

nearly as it played out in real time. Like those bel canto operas that actually seem shorter and make more sense when their "traditional" cuts are restored, the assurance of *Fistpack* to lay back and open wide proves there's no better way than to slowly get lost in the clouded consciousness of sexuality.

And then there's director Ward's marvelous editing, which sustains the mesmerizing flow by foregoing the standard quick-cuts for morphing elisions. The camera holds its view confidently, and glides when it moves (much credit to Ward's collaborators David Hempling, JD Slater, and Leif Gobo). With the restraint shown in editing, the effect is as smooth as if you never blinked. And the action is such perfection that you wouldn't want to, anyway.

The first scene, which spills us into the action even as the brief credits roll by, is so intently fo-



Raging Stallion Studios

Folsom Street Fairgoers will want to check out the singlet with piping.

cused on the action that it's only slowly that we realize its players are nearly anonymous. Hernando's face is briefly shown; of his

Top, all we can discern is that he's the city's Master Fister, and has bright red hair on his forearms. He works Hernando's hole with slow skill, till finally it's open so wide you could mistake it for the

Stargate. It's certainly as transporting

ing. Precum dangles in such a long crystal strand from Hernando's cock that it twirls in a huge circle, as it recoils from the Master's rapid plunging of alternating

fists.

Karrnal Knowledge

Massive top Mac Masters is draped in muscle and leather in the second scene, and the veins on his arms bulge as he works fist and dildo into Simon Cox. If you ever thought ass lips could be poetry in motion, watch the tight grasp of Simon's as they slide along a dildo's hefty girth. Rimming is a colorfully high-contrast affair for this couple — it's bright pink tongue into swirls of dark and molten chocolate.

Everybody on Folsom Street is gonna want the sexy little outfit that Aaron Tanner wears so suavely in *Fistpack's* finale. This snappy little wrestler's singlet, in black

leather with red piping, has the crotch and ass cut out, and jock-like straps around the thigh. I'd like to see this outfit looming on a Calvin Klein billboard over Times Square. What a perfect setting for the diadem of Tanner's pert pink cock. Studly Tom Vacarro gives Aaron's ass royal treatment with buttplug and dildo, before Sky Donovan enters, cavalierly showing off his buttplug. The two bottoms drop their plugs, and ultimately offer their fine, fine bottoms to Tom, as well as each other, in a sweaty round-robin of fisting. This has got to be the scene of the year; unique in its extended toy play, and savory in its depth of feeling. Sure cleaned out my intestinal flora.

Follow the advice of another famous group with the RS initials, and Play This Movie Loud, because JD Slater's music is sensational. Ward's work in *Fistpack* ranks with Christopher Ruge for obsession (but without the hermetic isolation), Robert Wilson for ensnaring time spans, and no other pornographer I know for its intensity of focus and singular, calm strength. Those of you not into fisting might be hoping Ward will bring this style of filmmaking to something less specialized. Oh, wait — he has. It's called *Sexus*, and I'll tell you all about it next time. ▼

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TELEVISION

Survivor, Iraq

by Victoria A. Brownworth

ust when you thought it was safe for Miss America to go back in the water, the US is literally up in arms again. We hate to say it, but violence in the Middle East may have escalated again just in time to momentarily stay the hand of the Bush Administration as it launches a grenade into the region.

Our drinking water comes from somewhere in Alpine France, so we haven't been swept up in the jingoistic fervor that has been attacking the nation in the past weeks, heating to a *Bundestag*-ian pitch at week's end. We feel as if we've missed a few episodes of the Iraq series — the ones that explain exactly why (other than oil, clearing Daddy's name for the history books, and diverting attention from the nose-diving economy) Saddam Hussein has become the world's greatest threat. A year ago we were told the world's greatest threat was Osama bin Laden, and we went to war with him (sort of). That war has yet to be won, which begs the question of why we are considering another war when we haven't completed the first. Bin Laden was the alleged power behind 9-11, for which we seek revenge. Unless we just became a nation of Kurds, what revenge are we seeking against Hussein?

We don't dispute the indisputable: Hussein is a dictator and a murderer. But, sadly, so are quite a few heads of state. Three million North Koreans have been systematically starved to death in less than two years by their leader; why aren't we going to war with him?

The fact is, like Fidel Castro, Hussein is a leader past his prime. He's not interested in anything but playing out his final years basking in the murderous glory of his heyday, when he gassed Kurds and pitched missiles at Israel just because he could. The US was never at risk from Hussein and never will be — except perhaps if we

wage war against him; one never knows how an enraged animal will respond. Our own intelligence reports indicate we are at far greater risk from sleeper terrorists in New Jersey than from Iraq. What's more, none of our intelligence indicates any connection whatsoever between Hussein and Al Qaeda. The same cannot be said of our good friends, the Saudis, who literally birthed bin Laden and 17 of the 19 who facilitated 9-11.

Bush asked for weapons inspections; he was promised them. Now he wants a regime change; he's not alone there. When did the US move from disengagement to pre-eminent strikes? If one takes the Bush theory of possible danger to its logical conclusion, the US should put all black men between the ages of 17 and 27 in prison, because one-third of them are already there. Thus the potential that the others might commit similar crimes is, by the Bush theorem, overwhelming.

That idea sounds racist and not a little insane — which, of course, it is. Much like the proposed war against Iraq.

Hearing hot seat

Thanks to TV, we witnessed Sen. Ted Kennedy (D-Mass.), grilling the Secretary of Defense from his seat on the Armed Services Committee. Kennedy reminded us of why he is one of the country's best legislators — he simply wouldn't let it go. He proposed every conceivable eventualty to a war with Iraq, and though Rumsfeld was good, Kennedy was better.

What if Israel retaliates with nuclear weapons, as it very well may if Iraq attacks Israel, as it naturally will if the US attacks Iraq? Sharon is not Rabin. He believes in blood for blood, and the recent carnage in the Middle East is proof of how well that strategy has

worked. But the Bush proposal to the UN on Iraq begs yet another political question: Why is it okay for the US to demand a regime change in Iraq, a world away, while it is not okay for Israel to demand the same in their own backyard of the territories? A war with Iraq will not be a singular event. It will be the opening of a portal to a Middle Eastern holocaust,

and if we learned nothing from 9-11 we should have learned America is no longer inviolate. And when we become the aggressors rather than the peacemakers, we don't deserve to be.

What could be more appalling than Germany's Justice Minister, Herta Daubler-Gaemlin, comparing Bush's plan for Iraq to Hitler and his *anschluss*? When Germany has the moral high ground, we are all in trouble. Just because Tony Blair had a brain transplant doesn't mean the rest of the UN security chieftains have. We have no moral standing on Iraq. Should we go to war without giving weapons inspections a try, we risk our national soul. Wasn't one Vietnam enough?

Doctors in the house

Politics in the Beltway and the Middle East haven't changed much between this season and last, and neither, regrettably, have the new shows. We recommend several — unfortunately, not the

two new shows set in San Francisco, *Presidio Med* on CBS and *MDs* on ABC, which also compete in the same time slot with the 11th season of NBC's *Law & Order*. We so wanted to like these new medical shows, especially since we loved ABC's short-lived *Gideon's Crossing* and we have been die-hard *ER* fans for eons. *PM* is the best show, but that's saying little. Packing an extraordinary all-star cast which includes the edgy Dana Delaney, Blythe Danner (Gwyneth Paltrow's mother), and a Tony-winning star in her own right, way before Gwyneth had ever spewed her first English accent) and the fabulous Anna Deveare Smith, this is *Lifetime* on prime time. Girls, girls, girls, but no edge and no joy. Sudsy, sappy, and we simply can't believe that even in the dyke mecca City by the Bay, an all-female (it isn't, just seems that way) medical practice exists. Especially since all these chicks are hopelessly hetero. A big zzzz.

Still, *PM* isn't as bad as *MDs*, which makes NBC's tediously scatological sitcom *Scrubs* look smart. We kind of liked *Chicago Hope* for the first season and a half, before David Kelley's stark production went AWOL into magical realism. *MDs* strives for the cosmic flair of *CH*, the bloody realism of *ER*, and the political edge of *Oz*: the result is an icky pastiche of styles and ideas that never comes together. We applaud the concept of doctors who want to buck the system, but we'd like them to be able to save our lives while they do so. Mission Gener-

al is a hospital you want to avoid. Stick with the tried and true for Wednesday nights: *ER* has legs for a reason.

The best new show of the season is ABC's stylish, noirish, *Twin Peaks*-ish *Push, Nevada*. The show is terrific in its own right, but also a game show in which you can play to win the big moolah that was stolen at the casino in the season opener. Call this *Survivor* without the bugs. It's smart and sexy (oh, did we love that tattoo scene or what? How homoerotic can you get with straight men on prime time?), superbly acted and even more marvelously edited. We applaud creators Ben Affleck (that Oscar wasn't a fluke) and Sean Bailey. This show has only one downside: it's in the same time slot as *Will & Grace*. But that's why God invented VCRs.

The next best new show is FOX's *John Doe*, a noirish sci-fi identity thriller that picks up where *X-Files* left off, and it's competing against nothing but *Dateline* and CBS's bad new cop show, *Hack*, on that dead TV night, Friday. Dominic Purcell is a hot and just-short-of-hunky amnesiac who may or may not be an extraterrestrial or government experiment.

Survivor is back for round five, this time in Thailand, making for lots of misery from flora, fauna and heat. The tribe booted John, the 40-year-old pastor from Louisiana, on last week's debut. Tolerance for the Bible-toting has always been limited in the *Survivor* series. Let's see who goes tonight. ▼

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Ozon's 8 Women

◀ Arts cover

Beth Hughes, Virginia Grey, Hedda Hopper and Butterfly McQueen. This isn't just a dream cast, it's the *Ripley's Believe It or Not* cast of all time. Who would have the balls to do it again?

have the balls to do it again?

Ozon's dream cast for *8 Women*, which assembles divas from over five decades of French cinema — Danielle Darrieux, Catherine Deneuve, Isabelle Huppert, Virginie Ledoyen, Ludivine Sagnier, Fanny Ardant, Emmanuelle Béart and Firmine Richard — would have seemed and would have been impossible for a filmmaker who's in his early '30s to gather, had it not been for an earlier film.

Ozon's *Under the Sand* had been a bitch of a job to mount. "It was difficult to produce because nobody believed in the story," he said in a recent interview. "Everybody thought it would be a failure because of Charlotte Rampling, she was very old-fashioned for all the French producers, and the story seemed very sad for everybody."

Against all odds, *Under the Sand* was a hit. "After this one, all the French actresses wanted to work with me, so I took this pretext to make *8 Women*. I thought it would be a good idea to make a film with an all-female cast, because I had to deal with my obsessions about women. You have to

sions about women. You have to see the film to understand me. I wanted to tell a story without men, because women don't need men to live, and it's the opposite for men, because men need women. I wanted to show a world without men, to speak about the relationships between women. People imagine them always as rivals, but in my film it begins as a world of catfights, and in the end it's a world of solidarity, of complicity, of understanding."

In *Under the Sand*, the Charlotte Rampling character is faced with the sudden disappearance of her husband. In practically all of Ozon's films, the death of a character figures prominently, usually the death of a man. "I need to kill in films maybe because I'm not able to kill in life, and very often it's a man that I kill. I don't know if it's my father or another man. It's important for me to show people without the other, I think the disappearance of someone can oblige you to become yourself. You have a need to kill, in a Symbolist way, people around you. It can be your family, it can be your sister. To become yourself, you have to have a way with murders." Ozon flashed his sexiest smile and purred, "I'm not a serial killer. Yes, but in films, I am."

Ozoni admitted that he could easily have been intimidated by the daunting task of directing eight hugely successful egos, each used to being the only star in the room. But the goal he'd set for himself didn't allow for such indulgences. He was not just making a film with eight stars, but was making it in an almost vanished visual style: the supersaturated color-rich look of early Technicolor. It would be a film that would contain an Agatha Christie-like mystery, against the backdrop of a Vincente Minnelli musical, with just a hint of the spice of one of those Douglas Sirk melodramas that rolled off the assembly lines of Universal in the '50s.

While his eight women often cite his Fassbinder homage, *Water Drops on Burning Rocks*, as their reason for working with him, Ozon has a hunch that the process was a bit more complicated. "For many actresses, the most impor-



Director François Ozon on the set of *8 Women*

Möller-Jaen-Müller

Ozon remains fiercely loyal to Rampling, his first diva, and the two have just finished another film, *The Swimming Pool* (somewhat inspired by the earlier, riot-inducing *See the Sea*), which probably won't be released in the States until next year. ▼

Opens Friday.



Virginie Ledoyen, Catherine Deneuve and Fanny Ardant in *8 Women*.

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OUT&ABOUT

Fri 27

SF LGBT Community Center
Celebrate "American Indian Day" with Bay Area American Indian Two Spirits, an organization serving the LGBT American Indian Community. All American Indians and their friends welcome. Bring potluck dish to share. An alcohol-free event. Free. 7-9pm. 1800 Market St.. Info: 865-5616.

Jon Sims Center for the Arts
AirSpace artist-in-residence ADEO, a new performance ensemble of queer men of color, address the "continued misrepresentation and absences of queer people of color in popular white cultural productions." Featuring dancer Oscar Trujillo, performance artist emael, visual artist Allyn Nobles, and community activist Derrick Miller-Handley. \$5-\$10 sliding (NOTAFLOF). 8pm. 1519 Mission St. (btwn 11th St. & S. Van Ness). Tix/Info: 554-0402; www.jonsimscstr.org

Theatre Rhinoceros

Comedian Kate Clinton (*Don't Get Me Started*), the "Broad from Broadband to Broadway," appears two nights only to kick off Theatre Rhino's 25th Anniversary Season. Clinton is one of America's best and brightest political comedians. Her material includes savvy send-ups of modern family relationships and illuminating perspectives on life as a gay American. \$25. 8pm. Also Sept. 28. 2926 16th St. Tix/Info: 861-5079; www.therhino.org

Herbst Theatre

The Kinsey Sicks return to SF as "Homecoming Queens." They recently played a long run in Provincetown, Mass., headlined at Montreal's "Just for Laughs" comedy fest, and did an off-Broadway run at NYC's Studio 54. Now they're re-igniting the home-town passion with their Dragapella Beautyshop Quartet sounds and antics. Expect a big surprise. \$20-\$32. 8pm. Also on Oct. 4.

SomArts

Kearny Street Workshop presents "A Window on the Art of Young Asian Pacific Americans," an annual arts festival/expo showcasing the work of some 100 Bay Area Asian Pacific American artists between ages 18 and 35. Featuring a gallery exhibition, film/video screenings, readings, music, performances, workshops and more. Tonight: "Literary/Performance Evening," with poets and writers, including Ishile Yi Park, a dynamic young poet, teacher and activist who is a rising voice in Asian America. \$5. 7:30pm. 934 Brannan St. (btwn. 8th & 9th sts.). Tix/Info: 503-0520; www.kearnystreet.org/apature.html

AHP Services Center

"Connecting through Spirituality: A Workshop for Gay and Bisexual Men to Talk about Enhancing Spirituality in Our Lives." Join others in considering ways to develop a healthy spirituality that opens our hearts and souls but doesn't hurt our minds, health, or sexual expression. Sponsored by REACH, a prevention program of the UCSF AIDS Health Project. Free. 6:30-9:30pm. 1930 Market St. RSVPS: 476-6448, ext. 1.

The EndUp

Big Booth and the EndUp present "Fag Fridays," with a personal appearance by the First Lady of Dance Music, Jocelyn Brown, and the return of DJ Miss Honey Dijon (NYC), along with resident DJs Ruben Mancias, Rolo and David Harness. 10pm-after hours. 21+w/D. 401 Sixth St. Info: 263-4850; fagfridays.com

The Stud

Queer Jitterbugs presents "Swing at the Stud." 6:30pm basic drop-in progressive East Coast Swing lesson (\$5); no partner or experience needed. 7:30-9pm free jive dancing with swapping of moves, practice, and just fun dancing. Ninth & Harrison. Info: 305-8242; queerjitterbugs.com



"The Uranus Show" revives the sexy/irreverent spirit of SF's legendary "Club Uranus" with a one-night-only photo retrospective at The New Black, a cool new Mission District gallery space. See Saturday.

The Stud

Grand Opening Party: "51/50 (fifty-one fifty)," the new Friday night party, with DJs Fritzi, Heinz, & Martinbom. Special performance by Tony Mangini. 10pm-2am. 9th & Harrison. Info: 252-7883.

Club Galia

Tranny rock band PepperSpray tears up the Mission in a pre-Folsom Fair party at midnight celebrating "Precious Moment's B'day Bash." Band members include reigning "Miss Trannyshack" Precious Moments, reigning "Queen of the Bay" Peggy L'Eggs, guitarist/composer Tinkle from the Tuck 'n' Roll Players, and the infamous Von Blondenborg sisters Jordan L'Moore and Princess Kennedy. It's rock, and retro. Also on the bill: The Fancy Sinatra's and Candy from Strangers. \$8 at the door. 9pm-2am. 2565 Mission St. (at 22nd St.). Tix/Info: 970-9777; PepperSpraytheband.com.

Sat 28

The New Black

Scott Owens presents "The Uranus Show," a Club Uranus Reunion Gallery show. It's been over ten years since Club Uranus closed its doors. It was an amazing ongoing cultural milieu. Now The New Black is hosting a photo retrospective for one night only. This is the first show of images taken at and about Uranus, and will feature pix from Marc Geller, Jessica Tanzer, Diana, and Daniel Nicoletta. Club Uranus was spectacular, and this show/event should be as well. Hosted by Michael Blue and Lewis Walden (the boys who ran Club Uranus). Curator: Ken Woodard. Free. 5:30-10pm. 2120 Bryant St. (btwn 19th and 20th). Info: www.thenewblack.org/Uranus_card.html

SS Trannyshack @ Pier 41

Thar she blows! It's seafaring tranny time aboard the "SS Trannyshack III," off in search of prize booty, piloted with reckless abandon by Skipper Hecklina and First Mate Miss Chocolate. They'll be pulling out of Fisherman's Wharf just in time — before coming on to the real captain and making him blush. The decks will be a-swish with queens testing out their sea legs. On-board celebs Peggy L'Eggs, Kennedy, Putanesca, Cock Robin and others will put on a rip-roarin' show. Resident Trannyshack DJ Pinky Ring gets the boat rockin'. \$35 adv.; \$45 night of cruise. Board at 9pm; boat departs promptly at 10pm (no drag time honored); returns 1am. Pier 41, Fisherman's Wharf. Tix at Rolo, 545 Castro St. Info: www.heklina.com

SF LGBT Center

ForWord Girls present "Take Back the Mic '02," a brand-new, ass-kicking, boot-stomping, tear-jerking, ear-splitting spoken-word/poetry festival for girls of all genders. Performances and Open Mics throughout the day and evening include "Speaking in All Our Tongues," a group reading by spoken-word girl gangs from around the country. Featuring Meliza Banales, Erin O'Briant, Thea Hillman, Shauna Rogan, Lauren Wheeler, Storm Flores, Sini Anderson, Daphne Gottlieb and many others. Co-sponsored by the Harvey Milk Institute, with support from the Jon Sims Center for the Arts. \$25-\$100, including evening performance; \$10-\$15 performances only. 9am-10pm (7:30-10pm performance). 1800 Market St. Info: www.ForWord-Girls.com

SF Hiking Club

Join other outdoors lovers for a Point Reyes Hike. Enjoy Old Pine and Meadows trails to connect to Sculptured Beach for lunch among sandstone terraces and teeming tide pools. It's a moderate 10-mile hike with a 2,000-ft. elevation gain. Meet 9am under the large Safeway sign at Market & Dolores. Club info: 487-6410; www.sfhiking.com

Marin Life, San Rafael

Enjoy the remainder of the gorgeous summer/fall weather at the first ever "Marin Life Potluck Picnic." Noon-4pm. Gerstle Park, San Rafael. Call Bryan at Marin Life at 415-457-2487 ext. 112 to RSVP and sign up to bring a dish, or e-mail marinlife2002@yahoo.com

SF LGBT Center

Queer Jitterbugs shag at the Center. All ages. No partner or experience needed. 6:30pm Basic East Coast Swing Lesson; 7:30pm Basic Collegiate Shag Lesson; 9pm-midnight dancing. \$10 (\$9 in school boy/girl wear; volunteers free). Info: 305-8242; www.queerjitterbugs.com

Jon Sims Center

"Queer Bollywood: Alternative Sexualities in Popular Indian Cinema with Gayatri Gopinath and Javid Syed." This clip show and lecture presentation addresses the question: "What does 'queerness' look like on the Hollywood screen today?" Gopinath and Syed offer a critical look at how popular Indian cinema today encodes queer sexualities. \$7-\$12 (NOTAFLOF). 8pm. 1519 Mission St. (btwn 11th St. & S. Van Ness). Tix/Info: 554-0402; www.jonsimscstr.org

Jon Sims Center

"Gay Men's Performance Workshop with Tim Miller," a chance to tell stories and share some of what goes on in



Douglas Liver

Justin Bond flies in from NYC to headline a star-studded fundraiser for District 8 Supervisor candidate Tom Radulovich at Café du Nord. See Monday.

848 Community Space

"Perverts Put Out!" A literary smut salon devoted to sex and perversion. Always humorous, irreverent, fun. Experience the cutting edge of erotic fiction with local writers and performers Bill Brent, Laura Antoniou, Simon Sheppard, M. Christian, Thomas Roche, Karen Taylor, horehound still-point, Linda Poelz, Lisa Montanari, Roxie and others. Costumes, fetish wear and birthday suits welcome. \$12-\$20 sliding. 8pm. 848 Divisadero (btwn Fulton & McAllister). Tix/Info: 431-0171; blackbooks.com

Sun 29

Folsom Street Fair

SMILE and thousands of your friends in leather/fetish wear bring you the world's largest, best loved leather/sm fair. Come be part of the spectacle from 11am to 6pm, South of Market on Folsom St. between 7th and 12th sts. Your donation at the gates and your beverage purchases benefit local charities. SMILE entertainment coordinators Mike Bergen and Nancy Kravitz, along with Bergen and Matt Vandall on the dance-stage, did a smash-up job this year, with spectacular line-ups on all fronts. The 10th Street Dance Area will be throb-bing to the sounds of DJs Bud Chism, Marcus Purnell, Jeff Johnson, and Jerry Bonham. On the 12th STREET STAGE: Greg Taylor and Connie Champagne are the MC's, presenting Dickin Jane (11:30-12:00); PepperSpray (12:05-12:35); the Who's Nellies (12:50-1:20); Cara Vida (1:20-1:35); Mink Stole (1:35-2:05); Gravy Train (2:05-2:20); Brian Grillo (2:20-2:50); Blue Period (3:00-3:30); Scissor Sisters (3:30-3:45); Pansy Division (3:45-4:15); Trannyshack (4:15-4:30); Beach Girls (4:40-5:10); Drag Kings (5:10-5:25); Angry Amputees (5:25-6:00). 7TH STREET STAGE: Bitesize (12:00-12:30); Temptress (12:45-1:15); Chris Green (1:15-1:30); Bad Ride (1:30-2:00); Superbooty (2:15-2:45); SF Gay Men's Chorus (2:45-3:00); Tempest (3:00-3:30); Mark Growden (3:30-3:45); Kofy Brown (3:45-4:15); Miss Conduct (4:30-5:00); Thin Acid Angel (5:15-5:45). Info: www.folsomstreetfair.com

T-Dance @ EndUp

The Original Sunday T-Dance, with resident DJs Jason Lee Hayes, Larry Reed, Charlotte the Baroness, and David Harness, with guest DJ Rolo. The EndUp is the people's church. As the club's website says: "Sunday T-Dance DJs deliver the gospel-like message of Deep House to a congregation of young and old, gay and straight, club kids and professionals, of all conceivable races, creeds, and colors." \$10. 6am-8pm. 21+w/D. 401 Sixth St. (at Harrison). Info: 357-0827, theendup.com

'Devotion' @ EndUp

"Devotion," a commitment to house music, with resident DJ Ruben Mancias and guest DJ Pete Avila. 8pm-4am. 21+w/D. Info: 778-8845.

Powerhouse

Right in the thick of things, always packed with hot men, the famed Powerhouse opens its door to the thirsty masses at 10am. Drop in and rub elbows (or whatever) with the friendly clientele. This fine establishment features some of the best DJs and hunkiest bartenders in town. Today Jerry Bonham amps up the energy from noon to 3pm, followed by DJ Bud Chism (3-6pm). As night blooms, DJ Bus Station John (6pm-closing) carries on with "Trash," offering a "Super 8-hour Retro-Homo Marathon of late '70/early '80s gay bar/bathhouse classics. Vintage vids; sleazy queens. 1347 Folsom St. Info: 552-8689; powerhouse-sf.com

1015 Folsom

GRGRWest (Grass Roots Gay Rights West) presents "Real Bad" XIV: "Release," a benefit dance party featuring the SF debut of DJ Peter Barona from LA, with 100% of net proceeds going to support CAPE (California Alliance for Pride & Equality, www.calcape.org) and Continuum (www.continuumhiv.org). \$40 through hosts; \$50 retail; \$60 door (if available). 7pm-4am. 1015 Folsom St. (at 6th St.). Tix at Body (4071 18th St.), The Barking Frog (2215 Market St.) and Mr. S Leather (310 7th St.). Info: www.realbad.org

Café du Nord

Editrix Abby, Paragon Productions (Justin of Rosin Coven) and Fudgie Frottage, aka Lu Read present "AFTERGLOW," The Pansexual Folsom Street Pagan Lounge and Play Party. Kinky klowns, wacky puppetry, dirty balloon animals, etc. Performers: Amber Ray (burlesque); Cotton Candy Cabaret; Rosin Coven (featuring puppet bondage and the sexy Juan Miguel); Mark Growden (solo accordion, guitar, vocals); Fou Fou Ha! Dancing Girls; Fudgie Frottage and The Transfusion Smackdown Wrestlers; MC Editrix Abby. Later: DJ Shane of Death Rock Booty Call spins nuwave/novave/punk/post-punk/rock'n'roll/metal, \$10 for Fun and Fabulous Attire; \$15 for Tired Attire. Doors open 5:30pm; Party till 2am. 2170 Market St. Info: 861-5075; www.editrixabby.com

The Friedman Center, Santa Rosa

"Art for Life Auction." Your \$50 donation provides in-home care for someone living with AIDS. 250 works of art. Silent auction begins promptly at 2pm. Wine, hors d'oeuvres, music. 4676 Mayette Ave., Santa Rosa. Info: Face to Face, 707-544-1581.

Mon 30**Café du Nord**

Ivana, Juanita MORE! and Greg Taylor present "The New Deal," as Justin Bond flies in from NYC to headline this fundraiser for District 8 Supervisor candidate Tom Radulovich. The all-star line-up includes soul/jazz/funk chanteuse Veronica Klaus and up-and-coming crooner/piano player Spencer Day. MC'd by drag diva supreme Juanita MORE! and Supervisor extraordinaire Mark Leno, with a wee bit o' help from Heklina, Ivana and Greg Taylor. \$10+ suggested donation. Door at 8pm; show at 9pm. 2170 Market St. Tix/info: www.tomradulovich.com/events

SF LGBT Center

"QComedy Showcase," hosted by Lisa Gedulig, with Maggie Dolan, John Doyle, Dana Cory, and Bridget Schwartz. \$8-\$15 sliding. Doors open



Miss Chocolate and Heklina cruise the Bay aboard the "SS Trannyshack III," departing from Pier 41. See Saturday.

7:30pm; show at 8pm prompt. Tix: 865-5633; www.harveymilk.org. Info: www.QComedy.com

Cowell Theater

Words on Dance presents choreographer and SF Ballet principal dancer Yuri Possokhov in conversation with SF Chronicle Dance Critic Octavio Roca. Including clips of Possokhov in some of his most memorable performances, and an audience Q&A session. Possokhov dance 10 years with the Bolshoi Ballet before going on to the Royal Danish Ballet in 1992 and the SF Ballet in 1994. \$15 & \$20. 7:30pm. Port Mason Center. Tix/info: 345-7575

Tue 1**Intersection for the Arts**

Jazz at Intersections presents The Marcus Shelby Jazz Orchestra, a 15-piece outfit, premiering an entire set of original music: Port Chicago: "Exoneration" (Ballet for Jazz Orchestra), based on the 1944 Port Chicago disaster. Plus a Cole Porter Review with special guest vocalists Allegra Brandy and Antoine Garth. \$12-\$15 sliding. 8pm. 446 Valencia St. (btwn 15th & 16th sts.). Tix/info: 626-3311; www.theintersection.org

The Stud

"Trannyshack" welcomes drag superstar Heda Lettuce in her one-tranny show, "Sex, Lies, and Duct-Tape!" She's new in town from NYC. Give her a big hand! \$6 cover. 10pm-3am (show at midnight). 9th & Harrison. Info: www.hekrina.com

Green Room

Composers, Inc. debuts the works of Bay Area composer Burt Goldstein, Kathy Jackanich, Gerald Levinson, Adam Mirza, Martin Rokeach, and Joseph Schwantner. \$18 gen'l; \$12 student/senior. \$5 4 season. 8pm. Veterans Bldg., 401 Van Ness Ave. Tix/info: 512-0541.

Wed 2**Bazaar Cafe**

Garrin Benfield (*Nowhere is Brighter*, Eighth Note Records) hosts the "GLBT Songwriter Series 1-Year Anniversary Show," featuring many of the great local singer/songwriters who have appeared at this monthly event. The venue, a small cafe in the Richmond District, serves as one of the city's prime folk-music venues, and this queer night draws a friendly, devoted crowd. The space gets crowded, so show up early. Benfield is just back from the Northeast leg of his Fall 2002 U.S. tour. 7pm. 5927 California St. Info: www.garrin.com



Creatus presents *Falling Off the Edge*, a new play by local playwright Adam Sandel, in the Studio at Theatre Rhinoceros. See Thursday.

26 Mix

Lu Read/DragStrip present "The Men of Club Casanova," the Drag King Tour 2002 spectacular. Join Mo B. Dick's wild, wacky & sexy touring drag king troupe as they grace our city — for one nite only — during a whirlwind tour of the continental US & Canada. With Mo B. Dick, Antonio Caputo, Dante DiFranco, Scab N.-Eatum, Miss Jonona Jupiter, Cody Pendan, and (from SF) Rusty Hips, SF Drag King 2002 and Fudgie Frotage. \$8-\$10 sliding. Door opens at 8pm; show at 9pm. 3024 Mission at 26th. Info: 282-5378; www.feed-the.com

The Black Box, Oakland

"Straight Black Folks Guide to Gay Black Folk," A One Woman Stage Show featuring the many faces of Hanifah Walidah. "The Guide" sheds light on gender politics within the Black community. Opening act: Exodus (7:30pm). Hosted by Misha Moseley. \$12. Doors open 7pm. Also on Wednesdays, Oct. 9, 16, 23, & 30. 1928 Telegraph Ave., Oakland (btwn 19th & 20 St. in downtown Oakland, 1 block from 19 St BART) Info: 510-451-1932.

Thu 3**Theatre Rhino Studio**

Creatus presents "Falling Off the Edge," a new play by local playwright Adam Sandel. Only 4 SF performances prior to the premiere in Sydney, Australia for the Gay Games VI sports & culture fest. Dumped by his boyfriend on the eve of his 40th birthday, Larry Solo spirals into a middle-aged gay panic. He comes to appreciate the sacrifices made by gay men of the past — and the freedom and opportunities that lay ahead of him. Directed by Andrea Devaux. Starring Neal Shorstein, recently seen in the drag version of *Waiting for Godot* at The Rhino. \$12 Thu. & Sun.; \$15 Fri. & Sat. 8:30pm (5:30pm Sun.). 2926 16th St. (at Mission). Tix/info: 861-5079; www.sfcreatus.com

The Odeon

Cabana Boy & Jamie L. Smith present "Monkey Seduction," a Weekly Happy Hour. Queer Focused. Mixed Crowd. With Host Cabana Boy, DJ Jamiez, and cool guests. Bahama Mama behind the bar. No Cover. 5 pm-9 pm (or later). 3223 Mission St.

The Stud

Jeff & Gary ("Zodiac," "Star 69") present "Reform Skool," a kick-ass queer club with resident DJs Jeff Chandler, Spun, Poppa, Discovery and MonkeyBoy. Their motto: "The Place to Be for Your Free and Liberated Mind, Body, & Soul." Go Go Boyz. 10pm-4am. 9th & Harrison.

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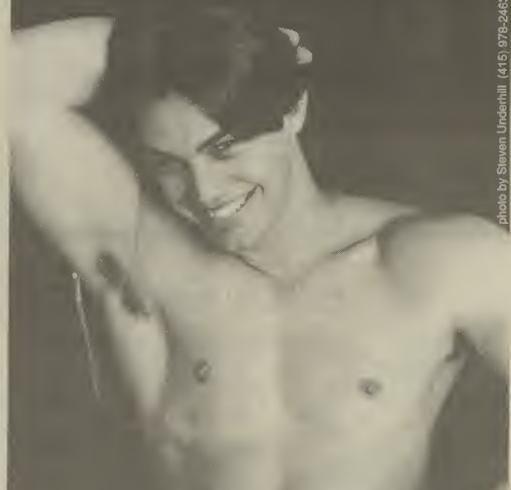


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Folsom St. Fair

◀ page 1

The night before, Mama threw a pre-march thank you party at Daddy's which was a non-benefit affair with TJ and Sheba again displaying their musical mastery but the big surprise of the night was a presentation by Ray Tilton to the Boys of San Francisco with their own flag. As many of you know, the Boy Pride Flag is almost exactly the same as the Leather Pride Flag but the blue stripes are green. And in this version, the big red heart is in the right upper quadrant of the flag. It was accepted gratefully by San Francisco Drummer Boy 2001 Jack Garcia, California Leather Boy 2002 Jeffrey Nowack, and the current San Francisco Leather Boy Will Brunner and yes, they were spotted with the flag held high during the Leather Walk.

Naked men on Upper Market

One short block away from Daddy's bar on Saturday night, a healthy group of art fanciers descended on the Atelier Gallery on Upper Market to witness an innovative fundraiser for the Positive Resource Center. There, super photographer James Scott Geras conducted a photo shoot of almost a dozen male nude models while a hushed



A Boy Pride Flag was presented to (from left) Jack Garcia, Jeff Nowack and Will Brunner in a ceremony at Daddy's Bar on Saturday night, Sep. 21. They carried it in the Leather Walk on Sunday, Sep. 22

crowd marveled at his super-fast posing techniques. Truly a mind-boggling adventure of artistry in motion. The \$20 tab afforded the crowd superb hors d'oeuvres but the main menu was the models, who exhibited a professionalism not often seen which such a huge crowd witnessing their captivation by the lenses of a master craftsman.

On Sunday, Lenny Broberg managed to charm some \$13,007 out of a lusty crowd at the Eagle who turned out for the auction of din-



These stunning models were the subjects of the lens of super photographer James Scott Geras at his gallery last Saturday night, Sep. 21 in a unique fundraiser for the Positive Resources Center.

ner dates with six of the 2003 Bare Chest Calendar men. The money benefits the AIDS Emergency Fund and AEF Vice President Glennon Sutter was in high spirits when the tally was finalized. It looks like Mr. May 2003 Troy Anicete hauled in the most during the auction with scores of "additional perks" besides a dinner date with himself. It was another awesome outpouring of generosity mixed in with a little bit of lust. Leather men of Los Angeles in attendance were aghast at the success of this endeavor. Lenny, you were superb and all you calendar men ... well, what can I say, except Bravo!

Leather Pride Week 2002 in San Francisco got off to a frisky start and it ain't over yet. There are numerous events taking place this weekend culminating in the greatest leather show on earth on Sunday at the 19th Folsom Street Fair. The Leather Pride flags are up on the poles along Folsom Street already and it looks like Mother Nature is cooperating to the fullest with SMMILE. I know that some 500 volunteers are gearing up for the big day and leather tourists are arriving hourly. Enjoy the fair, explore the lifestyle, help your neighbor, give generously, and appreciate that you can be what you always wanted to be. Live and love the lifestyle. It's one day that could change your life forever and come back next year ... bring your friends. And remember, "Love changes everything." ▼

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Thursday, September 26

"Spanking Party" at the Eagle at 2000 tonight, with a \$7 beer/soda bust. Have someone you love (or not) for a donation or have yourself spanked by an expert. Info: www.sfleathercalendar.org/forum.html.

Weekend, September 27-29

In San Jose, it's "Folsom Fringe" the Odyssey Island with a \$175 price tag which includes transportation to the Folsom Street Fair. Info: www.folsomfringe.com.

Mark I. Chester will give you a digital portrait of yourself or your group for a \$5 tab in his studio (1229 Folsom) on Friday from 2000-2400; Saturday from 1100 to 1800 and from 2000 to 2400. On Sunday, 1100-1800. Call 621-6294.

Friday, September 27

"SF Roll Call" uniform dinner benefit by the California B&B Corps. It's \$65 and you can get all the details by clicking on www.bbcorps.org.

2003 Bare Chest Calendar men meet & greet at the Powerhouse from 1700-2100. Calendar guys will personally autograph calendars for you on the spot.

Benefit for the Leather Archives & Museum at the Loading Dock from 1800-2100 with Joe Gallagher and Tom Stice doing the auction honors. Rick Storer, the Exec. Director of the LA&M from Chicago will be on hand to accept your donations.

SF Leather Daddies throw their 7th annual Erotic Art Auction at the Eagle, at 2100, with over 30 pieces of erotic art you might want to own, to benefit Visual AIDS.

Saturday, September 28

Hot Boots fetish party at the Loading Dock, from 1800-2100. Come and enjoy other boot aficionados. Info: www.hotboots.com.

Jito Garcia's swan song, "Magnitude 2002," at the Galleria Design Center, with tix ranging from \$70 in advance to \$80 at the door and \$125 for VIP as only Jito can do.

Sunday, September 29

The 19th Annual Folsom Street Fair, a mammoth leather party like you've never seen. Several beneficiaries will be recipients of your generosity. All the current leather titleholders will be introduced on the 12th Street stage at 12:30 sharp. Don't miss this fabulous photo op!

And immediately following the fair is the Real Bad XIV-Release" dance party at 1015 Folsom.

Wednesday, October 2

Those scamps at 933 Harrison want you to know that in honor of the Castro Street Fair, they are adding another Leather Buddies Night tonight. The usual stipulations: no white sneakers, no cologne. Strict leather, uniform, rubber only. For more information, call 777-HEAD.

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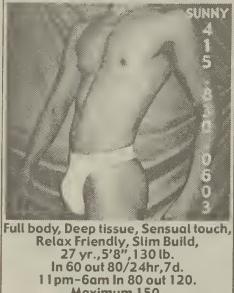
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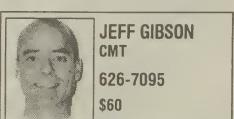
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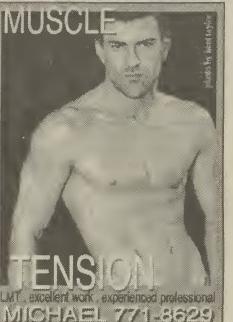


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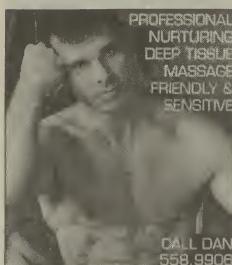
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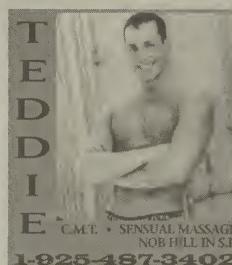
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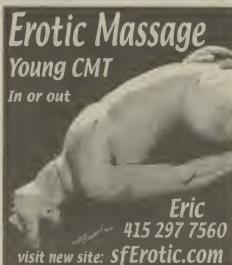
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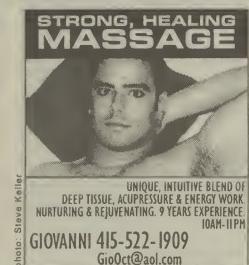
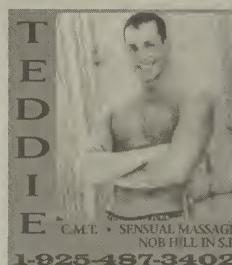
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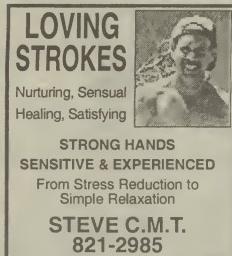
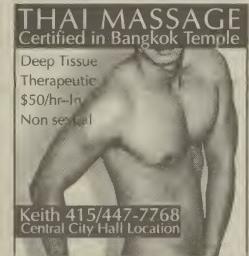
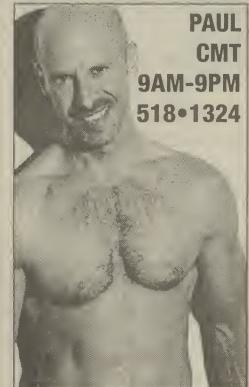
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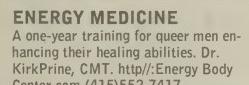
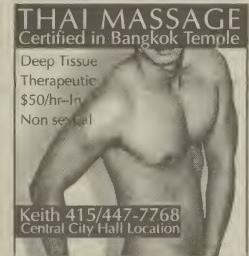
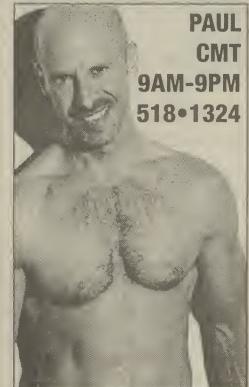
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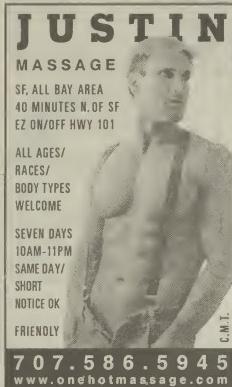
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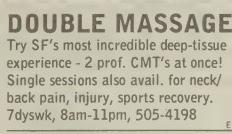
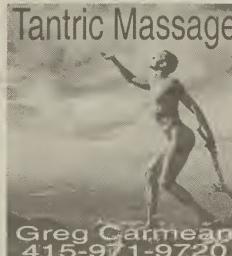
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E42

COWBOY TOP
6-180#, Rough muscled
30yrs. page 1 888 699 2325

E40

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Hot, Hung, Top
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Tom BuStone
SF BAY AREA

Handsome Hairy Hung
6' 160# 35 All Top
Reliable Professional Trustworthy Open-Minded Discreet Safe
Vanilla Kink Domination Fetish Play Role Play Massage

HOT!
It's your money - Demand Quality 415-256-6743
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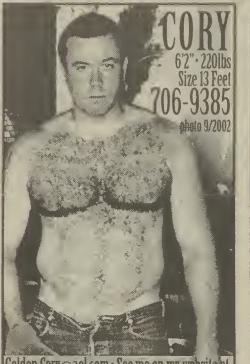
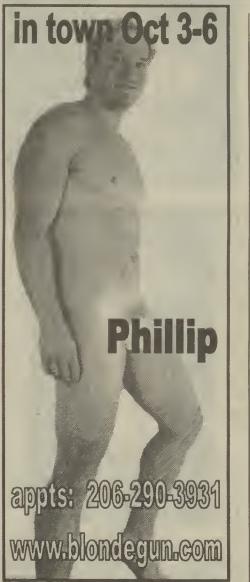
HONEST 9" THICK CUT LARGE SMOOTH LOW HANGERS. MUSCULAR LEAN GYM BODY, BIG LOAD WHEREVER YOU NEED IT MOST. BLONDE, 33YRS, 5'11", 170#. XLNT PERFORMER. TOTALLY ACCURATE AD. TOP STUD. CALL IAN-S120 OUT-CALLS IN S.F. 415.210.0431

ITALIAN STUD
6'1", 180#
8x5 cut, low hangers friendly, fun, passionate
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HORSE HUNG MAN
Super Endowed 5'11, 175
brn eyes, hr videos/jocks
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MODEL/ESCORTS

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6'7" 220lbs
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LONG, SENSUAL SESSIONS
WITH A TOP WHO ENJOYS
TAKING HIS TIME, TALL &
BUILT, FULL PLAYROOM.
RICK 431-0959**TATTOOED LOVE BOY**
PUNKISH, SLIM, SMOOTH
Irish/English HIV-bottom cutie
blu/blu, 5'9", 140#, firey, sexy
passionate, and well read, Sean
415-871-4228 \$120hr. + cab fare.E40
Masc handsome nasty btm 861 4650/\$75**Dominant Leatherman**42yo,
6'1", 220#,
Brown Hair,
flat top,
Blue Eyes,
mustache,
7" Uncut.
Bondage,
SM, WS,
CBT,
F/F,
Fetish,
Slave
Training.**Beginners Welcome**
Have equipment and playspace.
Scott (415) 414-1132 In/Out
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Mild to Wild · 100% VERSATILE
Out only · 5'10" 170# · 8" & Growing
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REPEAT CALLS SAY IT ALL!Frat Boy Hunk
Solid Muscular Pecs, Abs & Legs
Deep throat and young jock ass.
5'9", 155#, 30", 8" 246-446021 5'7" 130# br/br mohawk smth 8uc
CUTE DRUNK PUNK
Out oral \$120 Marc pg 415 679-0128**CONSTRUCTION WORKER TOP**
6-1, 177#, vgl, 9 inch cu
Page 650-523-9133, and massage E40**LEATHER TOP!**
Light to heavy sensual S/M
handsome experience w/dungeon
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Masculine verbal 21 5'9" 145# w/
thick hard tool, loves to pound
nice tight ass. Doug 414-2945 p E39

*Handsome*Masculine*Hung*Dude*

KICKS BACK FOR YOU

5'11"/175"br/gr*mid 30's*8"cut
Days off-Soma-\$75/in Randy 309-1032 E39**MAN TO MAN**Nude massage with release by
31yr old White bottom 5'7"
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handsome top w big meat. German an-
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from vanilla to kink \$150/hr out only
5'9", 150 29yo Aaron 415-846-7167 E39**BRUNO****6'3"**
240#

PERSONALS

MODEL/ESCORTS

S/M SENSUALITY

-long, & slow- my specialty.
6'2", 185, strong, gymanized
master into all aspects &
degrees of leatherplay.
S/M, B&D, FF, WS, raunch.
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Italian/Greek Handsome

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22yo, Very Cute, Bottom
Nice or Nasty, Out only
5'11", 150lbs Max 415-846-7219

Hot blonde w/green eyes 5'7" 135#

SEXY NEW BOYTOY

Hot & horny 23yo smooth/bottom boy

in/out calls - Jason 415-948-9589

Discrete*brown swimmer*uncut!!!
Gino* 27/7 out*789-8242*414-4286Very hot Hung 24yr old
Versatile, Caucasian/Latino
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22, EAGER TO PLEASE

5'9", 135#, 6"c, Smooth Swimmer's
Build Great Legs and Ass, Cute,
Boys & Playful In/Out, Versatile &
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E41

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170lbs 6ft 23yo smooth tone hot

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REALLY CUTE & FRIENDLY

Green eyes, brown hair, boyish, trim,
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Extra tall 6'6" 230 lbs
Extra goodlk smth musk build
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Rob \$120.00 24hrs 441-2134

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Very handsome, preppy, clean cut
27, young professional type
White, brn/grn, well educated,
into getting serviced only.

Available in SF & Peninsula, outcalls
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E42

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26, 5'11", 174lbs, 7"uncut, playful
top, suave, smooth 415-518-0168

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SMOOTH MUSCLED**BODYBUILDER****BIG CHEST BIG ARMS****HUGE LEGS**

Geoffrey 24hrs pgr. (415) 807-6700

E39

COLLEGE FRENZ

Mickey, 23, 5'11", 160#, gym toned,
smooth, baby-face jock, versatile
BOTH NEW TO THE BIZ!

Justin, 20, 5'9", 146#, swimmers body
Latino boy takes a semester off
we're both smooth, versatile, very
friendly & fun. Older men welcome
See us today! (415) 219-0770. =)

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All scenes-kink- 24hrs 255-8093,

verbal, role playing.

E39

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Hot & playful foreign boy
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HANDSOME STUD

VERSATILE TOP

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\$200

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MEMORABLE-DISCRETE

UNHURRIED SERVICE

STARTING AT

9" FAT-CUT

BROWN HAIR

5'11" 175"

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San Francisco's #1 Gay Dateline
Call: 1-900-255-2221 \$2.99 min.
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Competitive and non-competitive
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Arriving from down under 10 October
02, adventurous New Zealander seeks
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Harleys but love to ride. 42 years,
166 lbs., dark, hairy, bearded. For
more details write me, Nick Seaman,
16 Benfield Avenue, Mt. Albert,
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E39

Hot Local Guys! **MrN**
Bay Area's hottest chatline

Men Meet Men Right Now!
Preview each guy before you decide to connect live!
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LiveHard TalkRough

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Folsom 2002
FREE for a limited time
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Payment must accompany ad.
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PAYMENT
 Cash
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 Minimum \$10 charge.

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 Card Number _____
 Expiration Date _____
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 Name _____ Telephone _____
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BAY AREA MEN

- Live Talk
 - Meet Ads
 - Voice Mail
- 24 Hours
\$2.00
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Free

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1-800-507-7843, leather, B&D 18+
S&M MASTER TELESEXWM wants to JO/Blow/Rim/3-way
guys on 24/7 basis. S Cruz area. Must
be 18-30/Fit. 831-722-3739Advertise in the Bay Area Reporter
Personals! You know you want to!
Don't deny it, they really work!**EAST BAY BODY
WAXING AND BODY
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Over Daddy's knee 415-864-2766OVER \$43,000 RAISED BY
SF LEATHER COMMUNITYCONGRATULATIONS to all the organizers, volunteers and supporters of
**LEATHER WALK AND
BARE CHEST CALENDAR**
benefits last Sunday, Sept. 22nd.
Now we know what Leather Pride Is!In town for the fairs? Hot 8" deep
throat nudist will blow you if hung 8+
Ken/346-4966/24/7**PENIS ENLARGEMENT,
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Blow Buddies Parties

Extended Hours for Leather Week

Thur, 9/26: door 7:30pm-3am, play 'til late

Cigar party: 9pm/Backyard

Fri/Sat, 9/27-28: door 9pm-4am, play 'til 6am

Sun, 9/29: door 4pm-4am, play 'til late

Mon, 9/30: door 6pm-midnight, play 'til late

Boots party: 9pm/Backyard

Tue, 10/1: closed, we need a rest!

Wed, 10/2: Leather Buddies

door 9pm-midnight, play 'til late

**Boy Bust
@ Buddies**

1st Wed.

door 9-11pm,
play 'til late

**Underwear
Buddies**

3rd Wed.

door 9-11pm,
play 'til late

*Boot Party
Mon., Sept. 30
9pm in
Backyard*

Golden Shower

Buddies

2nd Wed.

door 8-11pm,
play 'til late

**Busy!
Safer-sex only
Large space
w/backyard
Clean
Glory holes
Slings
Jail cells
Mazes
Horny men!**

**LDG
LEATHERMEN'S
DISCUSSION GROUP
S/M SAFETY
WED. OCT. 2
UPSTAIRS @ 7:30PM**

**Free Digital
STUDpix
at our
booth @ Fair**

**Bondage
Buddies**

2nd Tues.

door 8-11pm,
play 'til late

*Cigar Party
Thu., Sept. 26
9pm in
Backyard*

**Leather
Buddies**

4th Wed.

door 8-11pm,
play 'til late

**Blow Buddies is
the Official Play
Space for Folsom
Street Fair 2002!**

**BLOW
BUDDIES**
San Francisco

**933 Harrison (@ 5th)
(415) 777-HEAD
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